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WORLD SOCCER

20p

The *INTERNATIONAL* Magazine

NOVEMBER 1973

World SOCCER
ALAN BALL
Arsenal

WORLD SOCCER
incorporating SOCCER STAR
The INTERNATIONAL Magazine

79 TEMPLE CHAMBERS - LONDON EC4
Telephone: 01-353 5688
Telex 28435

Editor PHILIP RISING

NOVEMBER WORLD SOCCER
VOL. 14 No. 2

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WORLD SOCCER (incorporating SOCCER STAR) is published monthly by Websters Publications Ltd., 79 Temple Chambers, London, E.C.4, England. Situated at this address are the magazine's Editorial, Advertising and Publishing offices. Printed by The Chesham Press Ltd., Chesham, Buckinghamshire. © Websters Publications Ltd. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper.

Ramsey should resign

COVENTRY manager Joe Mercer is right when he suggests that "it is no use sitting down for the next four years waiting for something to happen. We must go to Munich and learn about the game. England were without luck against Poland, but there was something lacking apart from good finishing. We must put more emphasis on skill and the positive approach."

Wise words from a man obviously saddened by England's World Cup exit. It is no good just sitting back; fundamental improvements must be made, and there is a great deal that can, and should, be learned from England's elimination.

The next few months will be anti-climactic for the national team. And the future of team-manager Sir Alf Ramsey will provoke a great deal of discussion. He may decide on a return to club management, but if not the time is ripe for him to vacate his position.

Throughout his reign he has made some startling statements, especially after crucial defeats. His use of substitutes has never been shrewd to say the least; remember he pulled off Bobby Charlton in Mexico when England were beating West Germany 2-0 (the match was subsequently lost 3-2); he made no substitutions when England were losing to Poland in Katowice, and more than once he has brought on players with less than five minutes remaining.

His explanations of such tactical manoeuvres tend to be even more strange than the changes themselves. When quizzed about bringing on Kevin Hector with two minutes remaining, he said: "I must admit I thought there was a little longer to go. I did not think an earlier substitution was necessary."

That remark is likely to stand alongside such famous quotes as "Martin Peters is ten years ahead of his time," and "there is no limit to what he (Alan Hudson) can achieve."

England must look for a successor, be prepared to pay a realistic salary (something Ramsey didn't receive) and start plotting for the next European Championship and the 1978 World Cup.

FRONT COVER PICTURE
Tony Currie of Sheffield United was a member of the England team that only drew 1-1 with Poland at Wembley and consequently suffered elimination from the 1974 World Cup.

ENGLAND O

by PHILIP RISING

THE full implications of England's shock elimination from the 1974 World Cup, and the profound effect it is likely to have on British soccer, will not be known for many months. It would be too easy to brush aside England's exit as being sad but not really significant for football in this country. Easy but wrong.

At a time when football in Britain is becoming less popular—as a spectator sport—the sort of infusion of general interest that active participation in the World Cup finals would assuredly bring was vital to the welfare of the sport here.

England's match with Poland at Wembley aroused the national interest in a manner that hasn't been achieved since the World Cup triumph in 1966. Football as a whole benefited by that success, and suddenly last month the whole country became football fans once again.

The sad faces of (left to right) Tony Currie, Mike Channon and Paul Madeley as they walk off the Wembley pitch after the 1–1 draw.

Enthusiasm

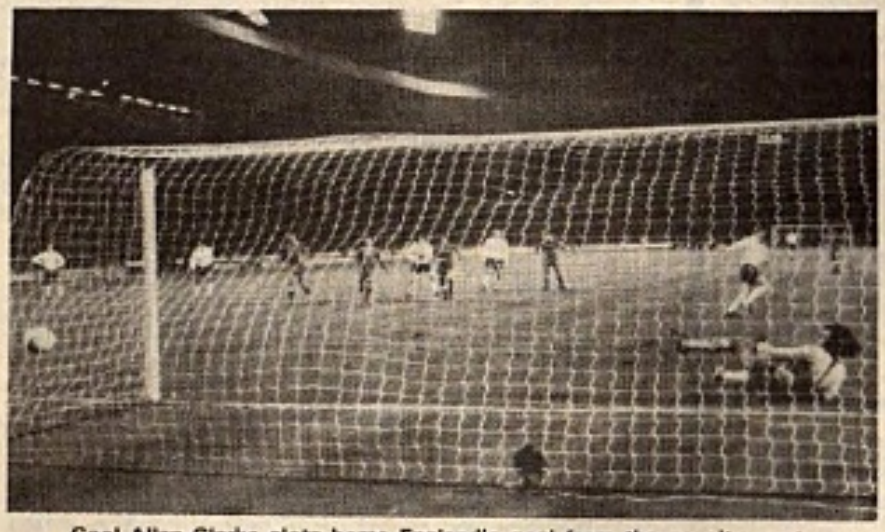
My wife, a notorious non-soccer fan, watched the match on television "because it really matters, doesn't it?". I have no doubt she was typical of millions and the tragedy is that their new-found enthusiasm has been cut off before it had a chance to blossom.

World Cup elimination is not something you can recover from in a few days. Perhaps even now the fact that England will not be taking part in the finals in West Germany has not completely sunk in. The reality of the situation will become strikingly apparent when the finals get under way.

The worst sufferers, of course, will be the England players and their team manager Sir Alf Ramsey. It will be another five years before England have a chance of competing in the final stages of a World Cup competition and very few of those who played against Poland at Wembley will be there . . . if we qualify!

It will also be difficult to motivate the England team in their matches already planned for the next few months. Italy visit Wembley this month, but the incentive for the players to do really well, and clinch a trip to West Germany, is gone.

The future of Sir Alf is open to conjecture. There is little criticism that can be levelled at him about the draw with Poland—except his puzzling reluctance to make use of substitutes. His explanation of why he didn't bring on Kevin Hector until two minutes from the end —"I thought there was a little longer to go"—is incredible. Surely he is constantly aware of the time factor. Hector, a fast striker who likes to operate from the flanks, should have been brought on long before the close in place of a pathetically ineffective Martin Chivers.



Cool Allan Clarke slots home England's goal from the penalty spot.

Combination

England played better than I expected at Wembley. But the fact remains that through a combination of bad luck and poor finishing, they failed to break down a Polish defence that defended stoutly throughout.

But if England's interest in the World Cup died at Wembley, it was only after being mortally wounded in Katowice. It would be very wrong to place the blame for elimination on either Bobby Moore or Norman Hunter, both of whom made crucial mistakes that led to vital goals.

UT!

The poor performances by England in Poland and against Wales at Wembley were the deciding factors. One point from these two matches simply wasn't enough. And Sir Alf Ramsey must shoulder much of the responsibility.

His team selections and tactics over the past few years have reduced England to a struggling nation in the international arena. England may be a major power at club level—although even that argument takes some supporting—but since 1966 we have achieved little in the international field.

Results like the 7-0 victory over Austria can be forgotten. England have failed too often in the last seven years in the matches that really matter; against West Germany (twice) for example. Our record against the top countries since that World Cup triumph is not good.

Deficiencies

Ramsey's loyalty to his players is commendable, but it shouldn't be allowed to blind him to their deficiencies. I have grown tired of reading that Martin Chivers is potentially the best centre-forward in the world; that Peter Shilton is the greatest goalkeeper since Gordon Banks; and that England have a team consisting exclusively of world-class players.

I saw Gerd Muller playing for West Germany against Austria and, believe me, England haven't a player who can compare with him. Muller would have got a hatful against the Poles because he specialises in the sort of situations England created.

Unavoidable

Peter Osgood is the one English player I can think of who might have made the best of some of the scrambled opportunities that came England's way in the crowded Polish penalty area. But Osgood was injured and unavailable . . . and it is doubtful whether Ramsey would have played him, at least not before a couple of minutes from the end.

One must ask why Tony Currie was not brought off. He was obviously far from fit, and had little left to offer 30 minutes before the end. He didn't play well throughout, and Colin Bell deserves a medal for the amount of ground he covered. Who could Sir Alf have sent into the fray? I'd have plumped for Colin Todd, yet he wasn't even on the substitutes' bench, but Bobby Moore was and his vision and passing ability could have been invaluable.

The West Germans and the World Cup organising authorities will be dismayed at the KO of England. Many thousands of English supporters would have made the relatively short trip to Germany for the finals and financially the competition will be worse off without England.

One of the major tragedies to my mind is that England, despite certain shortcomings, have the makings of a team that could have fared well in the finals. A replacement for Chivers is required, but either Hector or Osgood have the makings. And what about Mick Jones of Leeds United; a tireless worker who has a wonderful understanding with Allan Clarke.

In the past few months both Allan Clarke and Mike Channon have shown their class at international level. England's back four is up to standard. Shilton is a superb goalkeeper and it is only the midfield department that requires urgent work. Of the current trio I would certainly retain only Bell.

The big question mark hovers over Sir Alf Ramsey. It remains to be seen whether he decides to return to club management or to continue at Lancaster Gate. Five years is a long time to plot for your next assignment.

PHILIP EVANS reports

Fiorentina sprint ahead

SOME of us crypto-Tuscans wanted Fiorentina to do well this season, and they've been listening to our pleas. Four points from the first two games, alone with Lazio at the head of the classification, with the quondam joke of the transfer market—Walter Speggiorin—now being taken seriously. He has scored two of Fiorentina's three goals to date, young Desolati the other. With Saltutti also available, it may be that Fiorentina will have a striker of some skill among the three substitutes allowed for each game, an innovation this season.

Milan went across to Genoa for the first day of the season and lost to Sampdoria (and, they claimed, had refereeing) by the odd goal in five, three of them penalties. Rocco and Rivera had nothing to say after the game, but their silence was eloquent—and wise, for Milan have built up an unpleasant reputation for complaining about fate when it frowns on them and dismissing it when it proves charitable.

Genoa came to Milan to play Internazionale and held the local worthies to a goalless draw. That set Helenio Herrera off into the realms of polemic, his target being Juventus who managed a shaky win against Foggia by the odd goal in three and not before many hearts went aflutter in Turin.

Lazio have their points from an away win against Vicenza by three clear goals, and a home win against Sampdoria by just the one. A buffoon of a spectator ambled onto the pitch in this last, so it may be that Lazio will be penalised; but they are obviously going to play with the sort of elan and fraternal power that they evinced last season and will bear watching.

Napoli went to Cagliari, took a point from a squalid goalless game, came home, and tanned Juventus by two goals to nil. Juventus brought back Salvadore for the game; and the old man (who's only thirty-four, for heaven's sake) kept his cool while younger heads than his were going into orbit. It's too early in the season to play the part of wise seer, but Vycpalek's problems this season will be psychological rather than tactical, I feel.

Inter went off to Verona for their second game and tapped three goals in after trailing at half-time. Two went to Boninsegna, and a good season from him will make for another good forward on view in Germany next summer.

Roma stayed at home for the first Sunday and beat Bologna by the odd goal in three (one a Prati special); then travelled to Torino and lost by the odd goal in one. That left Bologna to come home and thrash Vicenza by four clear goals (Savoldi two, Fausto Landini two), and leave the Veneto club looking pretty silly.

Riva managed to score when Cagliari travelled to Foggia and came away with their second draw; but the Sardinian club have a lot of work to do if they are to finish in the top third of the table.

At the bottom, it's worth noting that the last six places have already been filled by the teams one would expect to be in the queue for relegation—Cesena, Genoa, Foggia, Verona, Vicenza and Sampdoria. If one takes the ultimate letter of all, it seems that often the last shall be first.

And a final note. All readers of this splendid journal who live within easy reach of London and have not yet purchased tickets for November 14, please do so. I have a hunch that Italy will do well next summer—and in any case players of the talent of Rivera, Mazzola, Anastasi, Riva and Zoff don't come along with the milk every morning.

Records do not interest me a great deal

GERD MÜLLER talks to Gregory Tesser

Gerd Müller with Uwe Seeler in the colours of West Germany.

QUESTION: Having scored 55 goals in 42 games for West Germany, you are now the leading international marksman for your country. Only one footballer, Uwe Seeler, managed to get near this total. Do you intend to try and overhaul Pele's goalscoring record?

ANSWER: Frankly, records do not interest me a great deal. All I am concerned about is helping my country to continue to win important matches. And as far as I am concerned, it does not matter to me who scores the goals just so long as we win.

You have a world-wide reputation of being a lethal goalscorer. Can you give us a few tips?

I think probably my main asset is knowing when a defence is likely to relax at a crucial time. I have an instinct for guessing when defenders are likely to make a wrong move in the penalty area. And once such a chance is handed to me, I never miss it.

In 1967 you had an operation and since then you have been playing with a metal plate in your arm. Do you find that this handicap has affected your game in any way?

No. In fact one of my best games so far was a short time after I fractured my arm—the 1967 Europenn Cup Winners' Cup Final against Glasgow Rangers when I played the whole game with my arm in plaster.

Since winning the European Championship, West Germany's International form has been far from impressive. What do you think are the reasons for this?

There are I think two main factors behind our comparative lack of success during recent months. Firstly, we have been almost continually plagued by injuries to key players, and because of this we have hardly ever been able to field a fully-fit side. But in my opinion, the most important reason for our indifferent displays is that since Gunter Netzer was transferred to Real Madrid, transfer rumours about other players in the international squad have been spreading like wildfire, and this sort of uncertainty has done a lot of harm to our team spirit.

Do you think that this present unsettled atmosphere which exists among the international squad will be resolved before the World Cup?

Obviously, it has got to. With the World Cup Finals only a few months away, every member of the squad must disregard all the rumours and buckle down to the job of training hard. Fortunately, in Mr. Helmut Schoen, we have one of the finest international team managers of all time, and under his guidance, I am sure that our present difficulties will be easily overcome.

Your country has an outstanding record in the World Cup, but can the present side repeat the 1954 triumph when West Germany defeated Hungary?

Well, I think we have a much better chance of winning than in 1954. In 1954 West Germany were the outsiders, whereas today the odds are much more in our favour.

Off the field, you are a very quiet person. You live in a Munich suburb, and a few months ago the Bavarian Minister of Finance encouraged you to take the post of inspector general of the regional pools competition. This picture conjures up a completely different image to the one you have on the field when at times you can be extremely temperamental. How do you reconcile these two personalities?

Owing to the intense pressures of top-class professional football, I find I need quiet relaxation at home. All the excitement I get is out of playing football, and any aggressive instincts I might have are utilised in the opposing side's penalty area.

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League suffers

Kasimierz Deyna of Poland.

POLAND

THE opening league matches have been seriously affected by the almost complete absence of the international squad preparing for their World Cup qualifying matches. The stars are only released at week-ends to play for their clubs and return within hours to the squad.

Despite this it is clear that legia Warsaw have improved on last year's showing with former Dukla chief Jarolsva Vejvoda back in command. Kazimierz Deyna their key man has been playing brilliantly. He was particularly good in the 5-1 home win over Polonia Bytom in which he scored a superb first goal himself after ten minutes and had a big part in the other four.

However the outstanding teams of the opening games are Ruch Chorzow, still bossed by the Czech Michal Vican and Wisla Krakow who have completely changed their image in the last two or three seasons. Ruch got off to a fine start scoring 16 goals and collecting nine points from a possible ten. Away to Zaglebie Sosnowiec, Ruch won 6-0 with Bronislaw Bula taking a hat-trick and the veteran international Joachim Marx scoring the first. They followed that with a 4-0 home win over ROW Rybnik that underlines their scoring power. Jozef Bon Jozef Kopicera Marx and Jozef Herisz. The only point they've dropped went in the 2-2 draw away to Pogon in Stettin where Marx got both the goals and he was on target again with a late goal when Ruch beat LKS Lodz 2-0.

Wisla still unbeaten, are only a point behind though only half as efficient in the matter of goalscoring. Sarnat and Kmiecik are their chief strikers but they have collectively averaged only one goal per point. After three straight wins, they were held twice in succession; 1-1 at home to Polonia Bytom who just escaped the drop last season and 1-1 away to Slask in Wroclaw.

Stal Mielec the champions, are also unbeaten but they've had two matches postponed. One of them is a key match, away to Gornik Zabzre who are sadly missing the talents of Wlodzimierz Lubanski.

GATES

GATES are up almost everywhere—presumably due to the encouraging results achieved in the World Cup by the national side. With international keeper Jurgen Croy fit again and back to his brilliant best unknown players with Sachsenring Zwickau have blossomed. After beating BFC Dynamo (Berlin) 2-0 they won 3-1 away to newly promoted Energie Cottbus before 15,000 to complete a series of five straight wins. At home to Lokomotive Leipzig next time out they drew 18,000 but dropped their first point in a 2-2 draw after leading 2-0 on the hour. Wolfram Lowe and Hans-Bert Matoul were the Lokomotive scorers.

SPARTA MISS TWO WITH INJURIES

ALTHOUGH eliminated from the World Cup their Under 23 side (Reigning European champions) continues to do well. In a tournament in Pyongang, North Korea, the Czechs drew 0-0 with the home side and in another game went down by a single goal to nil before a crowd of 25,000.

Crowds in the domestic programme continue to remain above last season's average. Sparta Prague pulled the biggest crowd of the round—14,859 for the visit of newly promoted Inter-Bratislava. Inter were hammered 3-0 with two goals from Jaroslav Barton pushing them back into bottom place. Sparta are likely to be without two of their top stars Jurkanin and Vesely for some time. The former has not recovered from an operation to his achilles tendon while the latter has had a knee operation.

Provincial

Dukla maintained their fine opening run with a 4-2 win away over Tatran Presov who were unbeatable at home last season. Presov took an early lead but new cap Zdenek Nehoda levelled matters and completed a hat trick in the second half. Dukla then pulled an unprecedented 8,000 for a home game against a provincial club—Cup holders Banik Ustrava but though they played well they went down to an early goal (1-0) from Jiri Klement. Again however Dukla rose to the occasion away to Lokomotive Kosice and went back on top from Slovan with a 2-0 win. Aloiz Fandel (from Spartak Trnava) gave them the lead in three minutes and substitute right winger Rudolf Gergel got the second goal five minutes from time.

In second place Slovan Bratislava hammered Slavia 5-1 with Jan Svehlik and stopper Anton Ondrus each scoring twice. Then away to Zilina right half Juraj Novotny's second half goal brought a 1-0 win, but then at home to Skoda Plzen, before a 15,000 crowd at Tehelne Pole, they trailed 1-0 for an hour before Svehlik scored to take a point.

Champions Trnava still struggle but moved up seven places with a 1-0 home win over VSS Kosice in which young midfield player Dusan Kramlik got the vital goal.

WORLD CUP ODDS

The latest odds being offered by London bookmakers William Hill for the 1974 World Cup are:

7-2 West Germany
9-2 Brazil
6-1 Italy
12-1 Holland
14-1 Bar
(Except Poland, 20-1)

ARE UP

Another veteran international playing at peak form is Peter Ducke of FC Carl Zeiss Jena. Taking both goals in the 2-0 away win over BFC Dynamo, Ducke got another two in the next round.

Dynamo Dresden went through a series of disappointing matches before striking the right blend in time to see off Juventus in the European Cup. Held to 4-4 at Kark Marx Stadt, Dynamo reshuffled their side, still unbeaten at the time with four draws in five games, and before a crowd of 25,000 could only draw 2-2 with Chemie Leipzig though they won 18-1 on corners!

Before meeting Juventus, Dynamo visited struggling Hansa Rostock where they were finally beaten 2-0. Before the vital World Cup game at home to Rumania a friendly match had been arranged (and all tickets sold at the Ost-See Stadion in Rostock). At the last moment the match was cancelled.

Two records seem destined to be broken in the near future. The first "all-in appearances" is being challenged by the Lokomotive Leipzig captain Peter Giessner who now has 504 games to his credit. On the goalscoring front Peter Ducke's league goals total has been boosted to 137—just five short of the East German record held by former BFC Dynamo star Schroter.

Sale of drinks controlled

THE sale and consumption of drinks by spectators at the West Germany v Austria soccer international at Hanover was strictly controlled.

In an effort to prevent the use of empty bottles and cans as missiles by hooligans, it was decreed that all drinks sold on the ground must first have been dispensed into a plastics or paper cup. The empty original containers had to be retained at the point of sale.

There was only one exception to the rule—drinks in the new "Merolite" plastics pouch introduced by ICI for beer and other carbonated drinks. This was the first time the new pack had been seen on the open market in Germany.

Capacity

The ultra-lightweight packs (of polyester film and paper) weigh 10 grammes, about one thirtieth of the weight of a typical drinks bottle of the same capacity. Last night, Firma Scheel and Company, Hanover, a local concern, sold quarter-litres of packaged carbonated drinks supplied by Douma Verenigde Bedrijven BV of Etten-Leur, Holland, licensees of the "Merolite" pack and filling process.

Douma have been marketing carbonated drinks in the "Merolite" pack since June this year, the pouches being filled by NV Hero Conserven, Breda, Holland, a leading Dutch producer of soft drinks.

The use of the new pack at the West German stadium will also have reduced the litter clearance problem. In addition to the considerable reduction in the weight and bulk of refuse to be collected, there were no metal bottle tops or ring-pulls to be picked up.

Next Month

World Cup elimination in retrospect

BRIAN GLANVILLE

studies the effects of England's KO and what should be done.

Kovacs puts faith in fresh blood

by ANDRE DUCLOS

YOU can hardly accuse Stefan Kovacs of not trying. Wisely perhaps, he has decided that since, in this season, France has nothing possible to lose, having been knocked out of the World Cup and not yet being involved in the European Championship, experiment should be the keynote, youth should be served. No fewer than seven players made their international debut against Greece at the Parc des Princes, where Greece were beaten 3-1 in the first international of the season.

It was a promising but undeniably spotty performance, and it was right of Kovacs to emphasise what scarcely needed emphasising; that it was going to be by no means the same ball game against West Germany. Perhaps he would have had a better, more incisive and effective team had he mixed youth with experience, but if, by this time next year, he can come out with a better French side, then he will have proved his point.

Domination

Let me introduce you to some of these young players all, of whom have done well, if not in the international team, then for their clubs in a remarkably even and well balanced League Championship. Gone are the days of the dual domination of Saint Etienne and Olympiqus Marseille Saint Etienne, it is true, have been setting a brisk pace, but they themselves came a dreadful cropper at unfashionable Angers, where on a Friday evening Marc Berdoll rattled home four goals against them.

Characteristically they, were all scored in and around the six yard box, for this is an instinctive player, who tends to miss the goals he should score, and snap up those you don't expect. At only 20 years old, however, he is a striker with an evident future, and it will be interesting to see whether he will stay with Angers, of whom he is very much a local product, having been born in the town's industrial zone.

Combative

He celebrated his debut for France, as substitute for another excellent young centre-forward, Bernard Lacombe of Lyon, with a goal in the 59th minute. He is strong, brave, combative, excellent in the air. Already married, to a girl two years younger than himself he, seems to have the right temperament to succeed.

By contrast the Saint Etienne left winger, Christian Sarramagna, who was pulled off thirteen minutes from the end against Greece, has all the tricks and the talent but a temperament that is suspect. He is not yet 22, a footballer from the Rugby playing country of Bayonne, which is something of a paradox in itself. He dribbles beautifully, sends over a cunningly floated centre, and can shoot superbly; sometimes. Some critics explain the inconsistency of his finishing on the grounds of a lack of concentration. We shall see. Meanwhile, he too has been blooded.

So, at the last moment, was the Nice right-half Roger Jouve, who also celebrated with a goal; the game's first. Nice have had an interesting but inconsistent season, thrashing both Marseille and Reims at home by 3-0. Jouve was called up at the last moment by Kovacs after not having originally been included in his seventeen probables. In the Brazilian Independence Tournament of last year, he was one of the only two French players—Patrick Revelli of Saint Etienne being the other—who went all the way to South America without getting a game. Now he can call himself an international. He is 24 years old. His father, he says, was more disappointed than he was by his long wait for recognition; M. Jouve *pere* never misses a match that his son plays. Joel, Roger's 17-year-old younger brother, is also on the books of Nice. Jean Snella, that wise manager-coach, has done much to improve Jouve's game, admiring him and his skills from the moment he arrived at Nice, and trying to refine them make, him deploy them more effectively and economically.

He has also benefited from playing alongside the clever, blond Swedish international inside-forward, Eriksson. Jouve, who ironically comes from Marseille, pays tribute to both men, and says that he tries to model his style of play on Eriksson's. Like Bedoll, but quite unlike most French players, he is very good in the air.

Withdraw

Saint Etienne's progress this season has had its ups and downs; not only in terms of results, either. Their victory over Reims was much criticised, for they laid low Reims' two Argentinian stars early on; to such an extent that both had to withdraw from the forthcoming matches to have treatment. Roby Herbin, their young manager, will have to discipline this excess of vigour.

One of the most promising and precocious of all French players over the last five years, Serge Chiesa, seems now as if he might well "come good". Certainly Kovacs seems determined not only to build his team around him but also to demand more from him on the field. It was notable against Greece that he was getting through far more work than usual. This is an inside-forward of great gifts who, it will be remembered, was picked for the national team while he was still a junior. Among his several fine club performances this season was one against Angers, the very week after they had thrashed Saint Etienne. Lyon beat them 3-1, and all three of these goals were scored, two in a nine minute spell, by Serge Chiesa.

Consolation

Nantes, the Champions, yet another team to show inconsistent form at the start of the season, have much missed their two Argentinian internationals, Marcos in attack, and the excellent Bargas in defence. It was small consolation to them to learn that Bargas was in outstanding form for Argentina in their World Cup game against Paraguay, in Asunscion.

Roby Herbin was very much impressed by Nantes when they came and drew at Saint Etienne, but their 2-0 defeat at home by Nimes was a blow indeed. Only 13,000 saw that one, but crowds generally have been surprisingly good by our somewhat modest standards. Thus, 22,724 saw the match between Lens and Lyon, and there were 30,000 at the Parc des Princes for the International against Greece.

Talking of Paris, Just Fonatine, the World Cup record goal scorer (13 in 1958) has returned to football as general manager of Paris Saint Germaine, in the Second Division. He seems to have got over his disappointing experiences when he was somewhat brusquely and prematurely pitchforked into the job of manager to the international team.

The senior Paris club—in terms of divisions—Paris F.C. are still looking for consistency. It was very disappointing that one of their better performances, a 3-0 win at home to Strasbourg, with the lively international Lousi Flock scoring twice, should be watched by only 9,000. Still, that would be a good crowd for Monaco, with its two or three thousand!

SCHON BIDS TO FIELD TOP TEAM

WEST GERMANY'S next international against Austria should provide manager Schön with the long-awaited opportunity of fielding his European Championship eleven, including the famed midfield of Hoeness, Wimmer and . . . Netzer! The Moscow match nevertheless brought these valuable pointers: The squad has been enriched further through the discovery of Danner; goalkeeper Sepp Maier is now being pressed by another serious rival in Kleff; Erwin Kremers is Germany's strongest outside-left and finally it became clear that without Netzer and his former adjutant, that "work horse" Wimmer, the German midfield is frankly underpowered.

To this ideal tandem, Schön can add, as a third link, either Flohe, Hoeness, Danner, Köppel or even Overath.

Finally, it must be remembered that the Germans have been forced to experiment on account of an unfortunate crop of injuries. But it is worth recalling that precisely out of a similar predicament they found last year a brilliant team who triumphed in Europe.

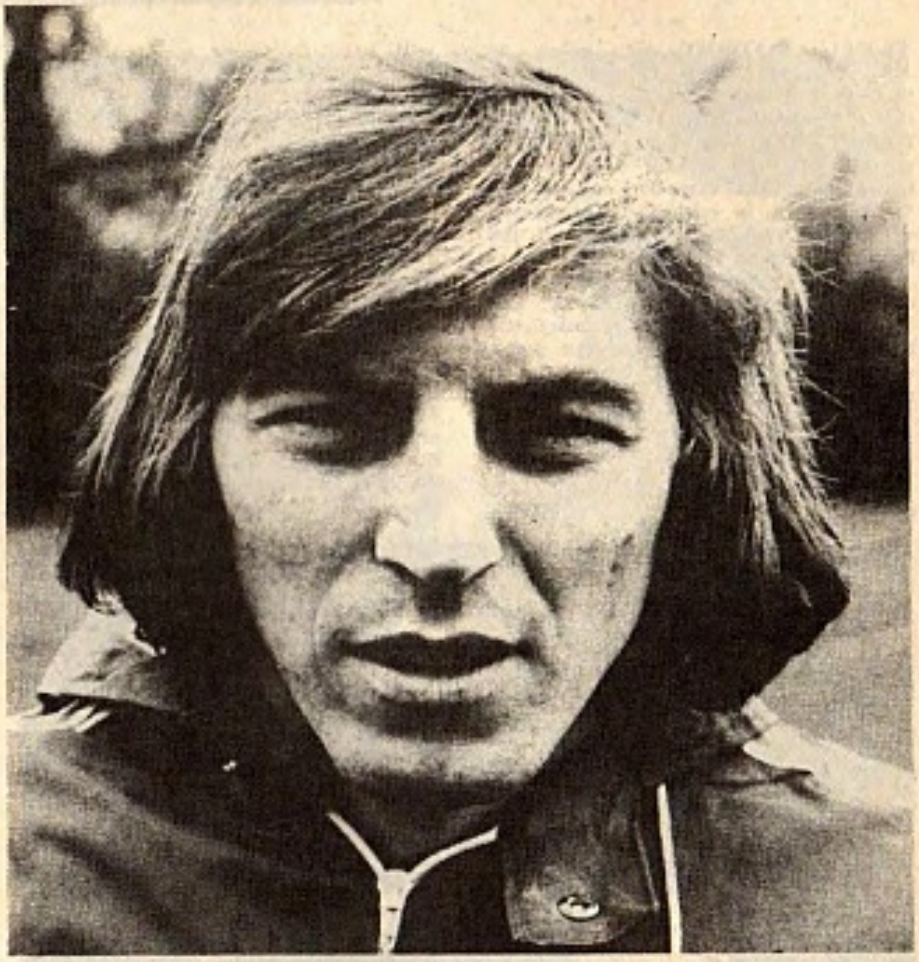
Challenge

In the championship, the title holders Bayern Munich are not having things their own way. Even without Netzer, Borussia Mönchengladbach have launched a tremendous challenge for leadership. After seven games Borussia established two records: they became the first team to collect 13 points from their opening seven matches. Before that, 1860 Munich (in 1965), FC Nürnberg (1967), Bayern (1968) and Schalke (1971) have each managed to gain 12 points from seven games.

In addition, Borussia have scored 27 goals in these matches—practically four goals per game! Previously Cologne (1964) and 1860 Munich (1965) hit 21 goals each, so that the Gladbacher outfit improved this record by a full six goals!

The attendance boom continued, with the average gate in the *Bundesliga* having reached over 26,000! Last season, it will be remembered, the average sank to 16,381. There is little doubt that this newly sparked interest is a direct consequence of the goal glut: 200 goals in the first 54 matches, for an average of 3.70 goals per game!

The most incredible score was the 5-5 between Schalke and Bayern, in which the champions pulled back from 0-3 and later from 2-5 to snatch a point!



Grabowski—still in the West German squad.

CUP FUNDS MISSING

IN the June issue of WORLD SOCCER I wrote about Argentina's preparations—or the lack of them—for the 1978 World Cup and the mystery of the missing funds for this purpose which are supposed to come from soccer lottery (football pools) earnings (writes ERIC WALL).

The funds are still missing—and so was, for six months, the Argentine F.A.'s sub-committee in charge of preparations. They had all resigned when the Argentine government changed hands in March. (The Argentine F.A. is still under government intervention and all posts seem to be linked, for some strange reason, to government changes.)

Only on September 7 did Argentina's provisional president, Raul Lastiri, put a new World Cup sub-committee—under notary public Fernando Mitjans—into office.

The missing funds—3 per cent of football pools intake is reserved for 1978 World Cup preparations and this amounted to roughly 1,500 million pesos (£6,00,000 at the exchange rate, but it goes a lot further here) early this year and has probably more than doubled by now.

Up to the time of writing, however, not a cent has been handed over by the Welfare Ministry which is in charge of the government-run football pools.

REAL MADRID SPORTS

REAL MADRID are going to demolish their famous luxury Stadium Santiago Bernabeu, and replace this 25-year-old 7th Wonder of the football world with the greatest sports complex in the world. Madrid will become the most complete and modern Sports Centre in existence. The game's show-piece and shop-window and the best playing field in Europe.

The new Stadium will have a capacity of 113,000 comfortably seated, and 130,000 on foot. The finest international telephone centre, so any foreign pressman will be able to connect with his paper direct. First class refreshments, V.I.P. lounges, a great Congress Hall, Restaurants, enlarged Trophy Gallery, luxurious offices, etc., etc.

The Stadium, except for the playing field, will be under cover. The players will have the most modern dressing rooms, elaborately heated, other private quarters, baths and showers.

All the modern advances, ideas and trends of architecture include vast car parks and popular sports installations of international standards.

The whole scheme carries the hallmark of one man D. Santiago Bernabeu, and the planning and building of the whole gigantic project will not cost Real Madrid a penny in cash.

A city like Madrid, and a Club like Real Madrid, have grown out of all proportion during the last century. During its 60 years existence, Real Madrid has always been at the service of Spanish Sport, Spain and Madrid. But special mention must be made about the Stadium Santiago Bernabeu and its perspective future.

Real Madrid goalkeeper Ramon.

When it was inaugurated in 1947 this new ground was set ideally, but after a quarter of a century the town has grown and lost some of the previous advantages. When it was first built the general opinion was that it was too far away and would be an economic disaster, but whereas at that time it was on the border of the city, now it is in the middle . . . completely suffocated by buildings and traffic, and has become a true problem for that zone of the city.

The directors of the club have become deeply conscious of this situation, and being not only sportsmen but lovers of the city they belong to, they have been thinking for several years of ways to solve the problem.

After numerous offers received regarding the transfer of the ground, all were rejected until approached by a group presided over by Mr. William Zeckendorf. Their proposal was thoroughly studied and the Committee, with the co-operation of the Mayor of Montreal — well known for his influence in developing urbanisations in this Canadian City, collaborated with Mr. Zeckendorf the famous promotor of such beautiful projects as the United Nations and the Place Ville Marie in Montreal.

Problems

For a year Mr. Zeckendorf and a group of world famous experts considered the problems caused by congested traffic in the Avenida del Generalisimo, the Paseo de la Castellana and the adjacent streets, every time a match was played in the Bernabeu Stadium.

It was decided that a sizeable Stadium with sufficient amenities would serve Spain well in the event of their being chosen to host the World Championships in the future.

The new Stadium will be some eight minutes by car from the present Stadium, in an enormous green zone. It is destined to be a future centre of relaxation and distruction for the club members and their families, with swimming pools, covered tennis courts, children's Zoo, Country Club, camping site, an eighteen hole Golf Course . . . in fact, a "Disneyland". In this manner sport can be promoted in a social and cultural atmosphere.

Plans include the Stadium being connected with underground and overland

PLAN SUPER COMPLEX

railways. In fact, Real Madrid Sports City would be the perfect venue for the future Olympic Games.

On the site of the present Stadium Bernabeu, there will be a large modern Park for the city of Madrid, with swimming pools for adults and children, which in the winter can be transformed into Skating Rinks, Recreation Ground with every commodity for water sports . . . an ideally attractive and tranquil situation.

For this project world experts will be consulted to solve the traffic problems of the zone. Engineers have made exhaustive experiments and in consequence they propose to go underground in the Plaza de los Sangrados Corozones to ease the congestion of traffic in the Avenida del Generalisimo and so divert it to the Calle del Padre Damian up to the Avenida de la Habana.

Stations

Such famous names as Vincente Ponte — who has actually worked on similar projects in Melbourne, Paris, Berlin, North America and Canada.

Advantage will be taken of four new future underground stations to connect places of tourist importance and interest.

To finance all this, a Tower will be constructed with 70 floors of offices, private flats and an Hotel of 600 rooms to serve the new Congress Hall. It will be the highest Tower in Europe . . . 248 metres high.

Another building of the same height will be erected on Calle del Padre Damian, isolating the Park from the traffic, apartment terraces overlooking the Park. Both buildings will have sufficient underground parking facilities for cars, so that all residents and tenants of the apartments can avoid the congested traffic in Avenida del Generalisimo and the adjacent streets.

The architects for this complex are two more world famous figures in this field . . . Sr. Pei and Henry Cobb.

The building area will cover 12 per cent of the whole plot . . . the remaining 88 per cent will be dedicated to the Park and the new sporting installations.

The finance, architecture and business side will be in Spanish hands with the collaboration of Mr. William Zeckendorf.

The whole project will be looked upon as a new amenity for the City and the Real Madrid club offers it to the people of Madrid as a monument. The full theme is something more than a mere financial or sporting operation, it means not only the building of a new and magnificent Stadium for the pride of national sport, but that the old ground will become one of the most beautiful urban development in the world.

Amancio of Real Madrid.

The new Stadium will have three floors with independent entrances for each level. The highest stand or antitheatre with 35,000 seats will be accessible by 50 escalators from a gallery, which in turn will be attainable by eight large external stairways.

Antitheatre

This antitheatre can be divided with a preferencial part in the front, holding 8,000 spectators and a general part with capacity for 27,000 people.

The middle stand — containing 21,000 seats — will house the Presidential and Press Boxes and T.V.

On the west side of the Stadium, V.I.P.s will be able to enter their seats directly without climbing stairs.

Sixty-five-thousand people will be accommodated on foot on the north, south and east sides of the Ground. There is the planned possibility that this section can be transformed into 25,000 comfortable seats at very little cost and without interrupting the function of the Ground.

Evacuation

The numerous accesses to all parts of the Stadium will ensure the rapid and safe evacuation and avoid any congestion.

A floor below the tribunal will accommodate offices, Trophy Museum, restaurants and cafés, or whatever other future function the ground may require.

The dressing-rooms for the players and storerooms will have direct access and communication with the Presidential and Press Boxes by lift. Cars will be able to reach offices and dressing rooms by ramp, so it will not be necessary to cross the path of the public.

Such are the plans for these two giant projects.

Haller returns in triumph to West Germany

ONE of the most interesting, and perhaps significant, paradoxes of the moment is the prevalence of elderly players in first class football, at a time when there has never been such a premium on speed and stamina. There are all sorts of ways of evaluating this; the one thing you cannot do is to deny it. In West Germany, the 34-year-old Helmut Haller, has made an extraordinary, triumphal return from Juventus to his original club, Augsburg, whom he left a decade ago. More than forty people were hurt when crowds burst through the police cordon for an early match—Second Division at that—against Munich 1860. Not even Bayern Munich had managed previously to fill the Olympic Stadium, yet here were Haller and Augsburg attracting so many people that ten thousand were locked outside. He rewarded those inside with a dazzling exhibition. Behind him, at Juventus, Haller has left that other extraordinary veteran the 35-year-old José Altafini, who still goes in and out of the Juventus first team, invaluable for his knack of scoring goals at vital moments of important matches.

Derek Dougan of Wolves.

Karl-Heinz Schnellinger, at 34, remains in Italy, with Milan, for what he swears will be his last season; at least in Italian football. But he, like the 34 year old Tarcisio Burgnich, just across the city with Inter, is after all a sweeper, and a non attacking sweeper at that. Perhaps these, like goalkeepers, who seem to mature at about thirty, should be put in somewhat different category.

In Britain, we have had the rejuvenation of Denis Law, with that free transfer to Manchester City, beginning, at full 33 years old, with that splendid first game and those two dramatic goals. In the same team, one need scarcely mention, there is the indestructible Tony Book; at 39, a player who can still quite cannily and competently tie a winger up, however fast he be. The Manchester City physiotherapist has poured scorn on the much expressed theory that one day Tony Book will simply blow up. He feels that Book is so fit, takes such good care of himself and trains so hard that he could go on for several more seasons to come.

Derek Dougan was another veteran, 34 years old, who began the season with a fine brace of goals. For me, he is still among the most dangerous centre-forwards in the League, excellent in the air, and now and then capable of one of those sprints down the left that characterised his game, dare one say it, a decade ago.

It seems not so long since that we were all lamenting the tremendous strain placed on the modern footballer—Dougan himself believes it is a strain caused by training rather than by actual excessive match play—and worrying about all those pulled pelvic girdles. The danger of overmuch play, and no doubt the danger to the pilvic girdle (though there is medical disagreement about this) still exist; yet it is plain that veteran players are not falling by the wayside. Indeed, a recent statistical survey in Italy showed a surprisingly high proportion of them still to be active and successful.

Old fashioned

What is so intriguing about the most distinguished of these veterans is that they do not play in any specific, limited positions. One cannot dismiss them by observing that they all seem to be goalkeepers or sweepers; or old fashioned wingers, after the manner of the astonishing Stanley Matthews, who could, after all, take "rests" and disappear from the game if he found the going too hard.

Altafini, Law and Dougan are strikers, where reactions must be immensely quicker—quicker than ever, one would have said, in these defensively oriented days. Brazil's Gerson, now coming up to 32 and a sixty cigarettes a day man,

Gerson of Brazil.

is still probably the best midfield inside-forward in Latin America.

I find it encouraging, because it means that football has not become the preserve of the hard running young. If it were ever to do so, if it were no longer to have a place for the old foxes and their hard won skills, the game would be in great danger; the kind of danger to which athletics and now swimming have succumbed. For if all one needs to be is strong and fast and fit, that way madness, and anabolic steroids, lie.

Counterpart

One hears now that not only the heavy event men, and women (women?) are taking them, but almost all athletes with any international pretensions. It is virtually the equivalent, the physical counterpart, of selling one's soul to the devil, but at least Faust was in a distinguished minority and stood to gain some transient advantage. The athletes are pursuing it, it seems, with Gadarene unanimity. What profit is there in mortaging your body then coming in eighth?

Meanwhile, the fact that veteran footballers all over the world are doing rather more than just survive leads me to wonder, not for the first time, whether our coaches, managers and trainers have not to some extent been their own dupes. I am still not convinced that the footballers of say fifties would not "live" with the teams and players of today, which have allegedly achieved such heights of physical fitness and tactical sophistication.

I have seen goals given away in the First Division this season which would have elicited roars of dismay on Hackney Marshes. No one will ever convince me that players of such individual flair as Tom Finney, Stanley Matthews and Tommy Lawton will not flourish in the football of today. As it becomes faster, more obsessed with simply lasting, so a premium is surely placed on the more subtle skills, on the ability to coax that slightly larger gap, those few extra inches, on which the scoring of a goal might depend.

Matthews and Finney could do it with a swerve, James and Doherty and Carter could do it was a pass. How many of our forwards today, even at the supposedly highest level, can even go "outside" the back as a classic winger would; and how much easier it has become for defences, in consequence! There is a very great deal of hubris about modern football, forever congratulating itself on how good it has become, while the spectators vote sullenly with their feet.

Remarkable

The news from the United States has been much more promising than for many a long year. It is remarkable indeed when SPORTS ILLUSTRATED, that most American of magazines, with its two million circulation, should actually devote its cover story to soccer. Indeed, the magazine ran not only an article on the new, native born star, Kyle Rote junior, the son of a famous American football player who opted for soccer, but another on the Final of the NASL Championship.

The American soccer public, growing but hardly vast, still does not really know that what it is getting is not even the second best. The "All Stars" team, for example, included as its strikers the two Southport men, Andy Provan and Jim Fryatt, good professionals both, but hardly, in this country household words. Neither, in fact, was able to play for the Philadelphia team which surprised Dallas Tornado, in its splendid covered Texas Stadium, in the Final; but a third Southport player, the Liverpudlian Chris Dunleavy, did, and marked young Kyle Rote largely out of the game.

Disastrous

A 1-0 win over Poland at the remote North Britain ground was a great fillup to the American international team, which is now, after a disastrous tour of Europe last summer, tending to give native born players more of a chance, rather than fill up the ranks with foreign has beens.

I do wish the NASL would stop its cheap experimenting, its ill considered fiddling about with the offside rule and the points system; cheap gimmicks which will ultimately do nothing there for the growth of the game. But the NASL itself has unquestionably done a lot. Ron Newman, the old Portsmouth winger, a devoted coach in Dallas, with the Tornado, Phil Woosnam, despite his deplorably flatulent pronouncements in American public relation-ese, Clive Toye, in administration, have sown the seeds for the beanstalk growth of boys' football. It may not be they who ultimately reap the rewards; but it is they who deserve them.

Bobby Charlton, in a perspicacious comment on his television interview some weeks ago, predicted that if ever the game really did catch on in America, the States would sweep up the world's coaching and playing talent with irresistible force. Perhaps it is as well that the day has not arrived yet, that America will leave us the Pele's and the Moore's and settle for the doughty men of Southport.

MULLER STRIKES

GERD MULLER, the celebrated West German striker, recently scored four goals in two games for his country . . . an illustration that this exceptional player is warming up to the task that will confront him in the World Cup finals next year. Muller was top scorer in Mexico and will be an ace card in Germany's bid to annex the World Cup next year. He scored twice against Austria—in a match the Germans should have won by more than 4–0—and then netted two more against France.

Austrians hit all time low at Wembley

by ERIC BATTY

IT will be a long time before officials at the Oesterreicher Fussball Bund forget the humiliation of September 26th. And it could have repercussions with regard to the 1976 World Cup if past form is anything to go by.

The last occasion that the Austrians felt humiliated was in 1958 when in the final stages of the World Cup in Switzerland the Korner brothers & Co., could only draw 2-2 against England in a sleepy little town called Boras—up river from Gothenburg. A 2-2 draw may not sound bad to English ears but it was the final humiliation for Austria who had already been eliminated from the series, losing 0-3 to Brazil and 0-2 to the Soviet Union. Out, eliminated and humiliated the OFB decided immediately not to enter for the 1962 World Cup because their football was not up to the standard required.

Honourable

If the descendants of the OFB Officials that made that decision are honourable men then after the Wembley debacle in which Austria went down 7-0 to England without even a flicker of resistance they must already have cancelled their plans to compete in 1978.

But I can imagine readers brows furrowing with confusion. Austria are currently top of their World Cup '74 Qualifying group—ahead of mighty Hungary and favourites Sweden—and might even yet get through if Sweden fail to win by two goals away to Malta. Again, as was pointed out to me soon after the match against England, if Austria are as poor as I say they are, how did they manage to draw 1-1 with Brazil not long ago?

Resistance

Explanations (when there are any) are always simple. This one takes a little time to explain but is not at all complicated . . . England at Wembley set out to attack the Austrian goal right from the start. They had little choice in fact—they got the ball and with it you have to go forward. When you meet no resistance there can only be one end . . . a goal. And when the whole 90 minutes follows the same pattern the only possible conclusion is an avalanche. That explains Wembley. The Austrians were bad as everyone could see and few of the players even tried. But what about Hungary with whom they drew twice, Sweden and Brazil?

First it must be recognised that the game in Hungary has never really risen from the ashes of the 1956 exodus. They looked as if they would for a while in the middle sixties but apart from producing a host of talented players who flattered only to deceive, their major contribution to the game of recent years came in the 1966 World Cup when, against a Brazilian team that was over the top and playing the wrong tactics, Hungary in the shape of Florian Albert, Ferenc Bene and Janos Farkas, conjured a goal of great beauty at Goodison Park.

Since then, putting aside some good quality football produced at club level by Ujpest Dozsa the Hungarians have contributed very little to the recent development of the game. They showed in 1972 when they reached the final stages of the European Nations championship that they had nothing to offer, and their situation has changed but little since then.

Phenomenon

Sweden too are no more skilful nor any more adventurous than they were in Mexico where they played without finesse, agility or elasticity. Workmanlike they are and with Ralf Edstrom a phenomenon in the air something of a second class power.

But in vitally important World Cup qualifying games—the circumstances in which Austria met them both—neither Hungary nor Sweden were good enough nor confident enough to carry the game to their opponents, playing football. In each game both sides played the defensive, cat-and-mouse game—afraid to make the first move lest they expose themselves to a quick counter attack. Motivated by fear and the

Allan Clarke scores his second goal for England against Austria.

Mike Channon and Martin Chivers celebrate England's first goal against Austria in their 7–0 success.

will to survive, each team attacked in turn, only when they had to—when they found themselves needing a goal.

The visit of Brazil recently produced a very similar match. Just four days earlier Brazil had played their first game in Europe for five years and manager Zagalo had been impressed by how much the game had changed. Having lost in Italy—a team Brazil had assassinated in the 1970 World Cup final in Mexico, Zagalo couldn't risk another defeat. He therefore re-built his team, introducing more physically endowed players and considerably strengthening the defence thus assuring himself against defeat. By so doing he also ensured that his one strong spearhead Jairzinho would be deprived of the close support of Rivelino and Clodoaldo, the former just a shadow of the player he had been; the latter still showing it in patches but not even bearing the promise he showed three and four years ago.

Crowded

Thus the Brazilians came and went and still no one had leaned, even ever so gently on the Austrian defence. Playing a cagey numbers game in crowded midfields where the ball can be pushed around short and the odd individual taken on in a demonstration of skill, the Austrians survived.

Then at Wembley, with the England squad eager to prove they could be an aggressive, attacking side (as they must be if they are to qualify for the World Cup), Austria were forced back, split asunder and taken apart. For the first time in two years the Austrians limitations were exposed. Goalkeeper Friedl Koncilia had a nightmare match and without their veteran libero and captain (too old now said the critics) Gerhard Sturmberger the defence just wasn't. Right back Robert Sara stood wide on his flank while probing England attacks literally destroyed the heart of the Austrian defence. Apart from a few neat touches offered by Gustl Starek and Willy Kreuz they had nothing to offer while the young Hans Krankl was shown up for what he is—promising by Austrian standards.

These last words hold the key. By Austrian standards.

Good player

This is a country where soccer, once the pride and passion of the nation, is now finding its place pushed back into the shadows. Young people today simply will not waste their time playing football if they have better things to do. That is if they have money to buy machines on which to amuse themselves. All the good players go abroad, primarily to West Germany though few really make it. In exchange the Austrians receive (limited to two foreigners per club) a host of West German players who come for easy money and the temporary good life in Austrian football.

In the current season more than 50 foreigners have been engaged by the First Division clubs in Austria. Twenty-six of these are second class Germans, 12 more from Yugoslavia and Lother Emmerich the veteran West German international left winger has even been persuaded to become a naturalised Austrian so that his club Austria Klagenfurt could sign a third foreigner, the German right winger Reinhardt Libuda. Just how wide and deep the Austrians cast their net in a bid to scrape up even third rate players from abroad is witnessed by the presence of two Uruguayans in Vienna, playing for the new "club" FK Austria-Wiener AC. Across the city there is an even stranger sight where Wiener Sport Klub have Ahmeda an Egyptian international from Nacional FC, Cairo coexisting with an Israeli star, Dariha from Hapoel Petak Tikva.

This is not intended to knock the Austrians but merely to set their current game in its right perspective. I understand on good authority that in the Wiener Ligaj the regionalised Third Division teams frequently play with ten men and even nine . . . because not enough young men are willing to play. Formerly it was a privilege to be invited to train with Rapid, Austria or W.S.K. Now training is not even obligatory for First Division players in some clubs.

This paints a picture of Austrian football in decline. One can imagine that the days when it was said that if a top club needed an inside forward urgently they had only to send a scout on a bike into the Wienerwald and take his pick are gone for good.

League football so far this season underlines the decline in interest. Top gate so far was a 20,000 crowd scattered around the giant Brater Stadion for the SC Rapid-Sturm "Darisol" Graz match. Sturm at the time were top of the league and unbeaten after seven games, having dropped but one point and conceded only one goal. That

● Continued on page 45

Cup Winners Cup entrants not elite...

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

Vic Halom of Sunderland in action against Kantor of Vasas.

SUNDERLAND'S famous victory in the English FA Cup—the first by a Second Division side for 42 years—and their subsequent entry into a major European "circuit", has drawn attention to some unusual facets of this competition: the Cup Winners' Cup is in fact the only European tournament which permits the participation of clubs from lower divisions of the national championship. Sunderland are, of course, not the first team from outside the upper sphere, for there have been other similarly placed clubs making a bid for Europe's second most important trophy.

Cardiff City, for example, have entered this contest nine times already. And it is really laughable that although the Cup Winners' Cup is the only competition open to clubs from Wales, Cardiff City in fact do not play there at all, but in the English Second Division. And last season the Welsh entered as their cup-holders little Wrexham, who are "domiciled" in England's Third Division! Even more bizarre is the fact that Wales have also been represented in the Cup Winners' tourney by non-League clubs like Bangor City and Borough United!

Campaign

From the Continent, too, there have been entrants from minor divisions like Randers Freja of Denmark, or Jeunesse Hautcharage who were actually in Luxembourg's Third Division when they won the FA Cup but had just gained promotion to the Second Division at the start of the Cup Winners' campaign in 1971-72. This term Rumania, for instance, are represented by Chimia Vilcea, who are also, like Sunderland, from the Second Division.

Furthermore, this competition has always included a number of clubs who were not even their country's cup-holders, but were allowed to participate as beaten finalists simply because their conquerors who managed to complete the "double" have always elected to play in the Champions' Cup. Without wishing to belittle this competition, I must add that, unlike in England, in many countries the domestic FA Cup tournament does not

Sunderland attack the Vasas goal through Vic Halom, with Toth the beaten defender.

	No. of teams	No. of games	Attendances	Average
1960–61	10	18	290,000	16,111
1961–62	24	44	650,000	14,733
1962–63	24	48	1,100,000	22,916
1963–64	29	62	1,300,000	20,967
1964–65	30	61	1,100,000	18,032
1965–66	31	59	1,546,000	26,023
1966–67	32	61	1,556,000	25,508
1967–68	32	64	1,683,000	26,269
1968–69	27	51	957,000	18,765
1969–70	32	64	1,657,000	25,890
1970–71	34	67	1,570,000	23,582
1971–72	34	65	1,630,000	25,000
1972–73	32	61	1,074,000	17,680

arouse the same passions and a number of clubs on the Continent just do not treat it quite so seriously.

Consequently, the Cup Winners entrants from those countries are not always representative of the elite. The FA Cup has been established in the British Isles long ago and all clubs without exception traditionally fight all the way to reach the Final and to win the coveted silver trophy. But this is not so on the Continent, where in fact in a number of countries the cup competition has either been introduced fairly late, or has been interrupted for a number of years.

By way of an example, there was no cup competition in Austria between 1950 and 1958, none in Belgium between 1957 and 1963; none in Czechoslovakia till 1960; nor in Denmark till 1954; none in West Germany between 1948 and 1952; none in Hungary till 1963; none in Italy from 1946 till 1957; none in Holland between 1946 and 1956; none in Poland from 1958 until 1961; and no cup in Sweden between 1954 and 1966.

In these circumstances, it is hardly surprising that after the initial interest, the gates at matches in the Cup Winners' Cup tournament have been steadily dwindling and currently amount to just less than half of the average attendances registered in the principal competition, the Champions Cup. This table shows the full development of the Cup Winners tournament, the youngest of the three major contests, founded only in 1960.

Comments

In the 13 competitions so far, there were 725 games, 2,225 goals and a total of 16,113,000 spectators.

A close study of the contenders this season confirms my earlier comments on the quality of the field. Next to such famous clubs as Glasgow Rangers (winners in 1972), Sporting Lisbon (winners in 1964) and AC Milan, who are the only club in Europe who have won this trophy twice (in 1968 and 1973), there are Dynamo Zagreb, Rapid Vienna, Cardiff City, Olympique Lyon, Legia Warsaw and FC Magdeburg, who have taken part here more than twice. There are five clubs—including the holders AC Milan—who have only two atemtps to their credit; eight teams with only one previous appearance behind them and 11 sides making their debuts in this competition!

This table shows the records of the nine leading clubs taking part in this season's tournament.

	No. app.	P	W	D	L	F	A
Glasgow R.	5	34	16	7	11	59	41
Cardiff C.	7	31	13	10	8	53	30
AC Milan	2	19	11	8	0	32	10
Spt. Lisbon	4	20	11	4	5	53	28
Dyn. Zagreb	5	23	9	5	9	25	26
Olym. Lyon	3	18	8	3	7	26	21
Rap. Vienna	4	18	5	7	6	28	30
Legia W'rs'w	3	13	6	3	4	22	15
Magdeburg	3	13	5	6	2	20	11

Apart from these clubs with the longest experience in the competition, these teams must also be mentioned as among the elite taking part this season: Torpedo Moscow (with two appearances already), Atletico Bilbao (one app.) and Borussia Mönchengladbach (one app.). Newcomers to this tournament this term are Anderlecht, Beroe Stara Zagora (Bulgaria), Sunderland, IB Västmannäjar (Iceland), Fola Esch (Luxembourg), Gzira (Malta), Brann Bergen (Norway), Malmoe (Sweden), Vasas Budapest, Banik Ostrava (CSSR) and Chimia Vilcea (Rumania).

The circle of favourites to win the current contest can safely be narrowed to the trio of AC Milan, Borussia Mönchengladbach and Glasgow Rangers, with Sporting Lisbon as the next best contenders.

NEW SECRETARY SETTLES DOWN

by ERIC THORNTON

ANOTHER man has taken over, and is now settling down to the formidable task of deciding the guide lines for millions, while at the same time shaping the future of English soccer for the years ahead.

The name's E. A. Croker, and although it won't ring a bell with many, just yet, it could eventually roll off the tongue with the greatest of ease, and probably before the new year is very old.

For Ted Croker, as he's known to close associates, has moved over from commercial life in the Cotswolds to the Corridors of Power. Because he's the new secretary of the Football Association, which, after all, is the highly respected father of all similar associations in every part of the world.

Business

A former amateur wing-half with Kingstonian, Headington and Kidderminster Harriers, he was also on the books of Charlton Athletic at the same time as brother Peter, who won a cup medal with the South London folk in 1947.

He played a less active part in the game when business called, and eventually kept him fully occupied as managing-director of a Cheltenham company, but the interest has always remained, and there's no need for a refresher course on any of soccer's many aspects.

Now, taking it from there, the average man is today wondering how an important new appointment of this kind may affect the sport's future, and whether one should anticipate changes caused by the introduction of a different personality.

Encourage

In short, will a businesslike 48-year-old supply new and extra drive in domestic affairs, and encourage the playing of a stronger hand at international level?

Between the wars, the FA often seemed bankrupt of new ideas, and even in the immediate post-war period they revealed a strange lack of vision by attempting to bar any English club from playing in the European Cup.

Chelsea had the first invitation from abroad after topping the First Division, in 1955, yet surprised many by falling in line with Lancaster Gate policy, and turning down a wonderful opportunity of making history.

That was when Harold Hardman, the Manchester United chairman who could certainly see much further than his nose, said to me: "The sooner we become English champions the better, because neither the FA nor the League nor anyone else will stop us playing in this European Cup."

Matt Busby's boys carried off the league title 12 months later, and, true to his word, their fighting chairman led them into Europe amidst some of the most amazing crowd scenes even Manchester has ever seen.

Experiment

Altogether, it was a rather conservative council during the long sercetaryship of Sir Stanley Rous, but during the reign of his successor, Denis Follows, it became more willing to accept new plans, and experiment with many others.

Warm-hearted, efficient and always in touch with the younger generation, this old friend of mine supplied considerable and additional incentive, and especially for non-leaguers with the introduction of the FA Challenge Trophy.

Will this new man, who was chosen from more than 200 applicants, be a visionary, applaud new thinking, and forward planning, or frown upon change and leave us marking time?

He provides two important clues by first admitting he's not a revolutionary, and then insisting that discipline "is no great problem, but rather an attitude of mind on the field of play."

Then he adds: "The true measure of the success of the game in this country, over the years, is that in other sporting and athletic activities second-rate performances are accepted, but if we are not excelling at international level in soccer we expect and receive severe criticism."

Obviously not a pessimistic person, he says he wants everybody to enjoy soccer. So do we.

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PERSONAL OPINION

by LESLIE VERNON

Ball 'copy' should be censured!

IN the olden days, a fairly young ambitious gent called Paul Trevillion used to be quite content to draw simple diagrams, illustrating the different ways goals have been scored. Supplementing this visual form of journalism, he also drew giant heads in comic-strip style mouthing such elementary messages as "I hit the ball with the inside of my left boot."

Immediately underneath this relevation, one would discover the sketch of an enormous boot with an arrow pointing at its left side. But the intellectual content of this exercise—not to mention the financial rewards—didn't satisfy the artist in him, so Mr. T. decided to devote some time to the written word.

Apparently disinterested in the good name of football, he concluded that cheap sensationalism was the fastest way to success, and he formed an unholy alliance with one player.

The *Sunday People*, always susceptible to "relevations" whether it comes from the husband of a call-girl, a butler who saw everything without putting the penny in, or even an international footballer, who has no respect for his chosen profession.

Thus, the Alan Ball series was born, concocted, devised—call it what you will—and was pushed down the throats of a public already disillusioned by the currently unhealthy climate of our national sport.

Cheated

Just take one week's output (30.9.73), and then if you feel violently sick, please don't blame me. Ball tells us proudly that he cheated against Stoke City, when "I lowered my voice and kidded an opposing player, Sean Haslegrave, to 'Let the ball go', so I could volley it home. But I didn't cheat my team-mates, or the Arsenal club, who picked up two points. Football is like that. It's a dog eat dog. Con tricks are being pulled every day."

Bertie Mee of Arsenal is one of the most likeable and honest managers in football. I cannot imagine that he has instructed his players to cheat and pull con-tricks on the referee and opposition.

If Ball thinks that a world renowned club like Arsenal needs points that badly, he is gravely mistaken. In the same article, Ball declares that Alf Ramsey knows that "I am one of the best in the world at one-touch football." Slightly immodest one would think, although I am quite sure that both Sir Alf and Ball must have travelled a great deal specially looking at "one-touch players" before reaching this shattering conclusion.

But this brilliant footballer—by his own valuation—has also made some shrewd(?) observations about the referees. "They are football's big joke." One of them is described politely as a "silly sod".

Language

Why the abuse? Because the refs don't bother to learn the players' secret language. Consequently, when a chirpy voice shouts "Go and commit the rearmost", they do not know that Bally has instructed Radford to commit the sweeper. What a load of unfair nonsense!

Why should a referee investigate the individual calls of every team in the land? In what way would that knowledge make him a better official? He is there to see that the rules are obeyed and that the game is played in a sporting fashion. He has neither time nor interest in the childish slang of the players, who in any case, must be judged by their actions only.

The tragedy is that while I feel a sense of outrage on behalf of football when reading this piece, no one in authority seems to do anything about it (at least at the time of writing).

The Trevillion-Ball "copy" should be investigated by the FA and the Referees' Association. I do not believe in censorship, but neither do I accept licentiousness for the sake of creating controversy or making idiotic headlines.

I call on the Arsenal management to fine Alan Ball and repudiate his remarks concerning the Stoke match. I call on Sir Alf Ramsey not to include him in his squad (even when he is not available to play!) until he publicly apologises to the referee who didn't hear his "lowered voice" and was "conned" into awarding a goal.

I always knew that Ball was a bad loser and a temperamental player. But he is a potentially great player, and I credited him with more sense than he has shown in these deplorable articles. Perhaps he should have consulted his Dad—as usual—before he paired up with Mr. T.!

During the early season Q.P.R. v. West Ham match, two perfectly good goals were disallowed because a player, not actively involved in the action, strayed into an offside position. This question of "passive offside" or interfering with the play should be clarified because, at present, it is one of the most annoying features of the game. Let us look at two examples. In the Arsenal v. Leicester game, Frank Worthington was running with the ball on the right-hand side of the penalty box. Wilson came out to narrow the angle, but the Leicester forward beat him with a low shot. As the ball entered the net, Birchenall ran in happily to pick up the ball. Verdict—no goal, offside against Birchenall, who was never visible to the goalkeeper.

During the Italy v. England match, Pulici hit the ball against Shilton's leg, and then the impetus of his running took him past the goalkeeper. Anastasi scored with Pulici standing inside the goal-area, clearly in an offside position. Verdict—goal. Pulici didn't interfere with the play!

Who was right and who was wrong? To answer a question with a question. Who can tell? Whenever a player is in an offside position, the linesman (rightly!) puts his flag up, and it is up to the referee whether he considers the offender to be an active participant in the action or not.

It is often a very difficult decision to make, and it is far simpler to blow for offside than let play go on and be responsible for the consequences. In this age of goal-famine, as a slight improvement, I would like to see the refs give the benefit to the forwards more often

JOHN SPARROW in Amsterdam

DUTCH TRY NEW TACTICS

WITH November 18 hovering ever closer—the home tie with Belgium which decides who goes to the World Cup finals in Germany from Group 3—the Netherlands' bonds-coaches chose to experiment in a final warm up.

Behind them was the lacklustre performance of the Dutch national team against the Norwegian amateurs in a World Cup qualifier in Oslo on September 12. They scraped home 1-2 via a Barry Hulshoff goal in the dying moments of the game. And this against the side they beat 9-0 in Rotterdam last year.

The final pre-Belgium warm up—to be played as I write—was the Poland game in the Feyenoord stadium. A significant match all round, what with Sir Alf Ramsey and Co. on hand to eye up the Polish threat in their section.

The Dutch squad was van Beveren (PSV), Schrijvers (Twente), Suurbier (Ajax), Schneider (Feyenoord), Drost (Twente), Mansveld (Den Haag), Krol (Ajax), de Jong (Feyenoord), Wery (Feyenoord), van Hanegem (Feyenoord), Gerrie Muhren (Ajax), René van de Kerkhof (PSV), Cruyff (Barcelona), Keizer (Ajax), and Rensenbrink (Anderlecht).

Sealed

Notably out was Willy Brokamp, the MVV Maastricht striker. None too impressive in the league this season, he put on a washed-out performance in MVV's 3-1 defeat by Feyenoord the week before, which may well have sealed his fate for the Poland game.

The other name players out—the three Ajax players Hulshoff, Arie Haan and Johan Neeskens: although Hulshoff asked to be excluded due to a minor injury and Neeskens was suffering from angina and was likely to be included if fit enough.

Notable among the players getting a final chance for inclusion in the squad to meet Belgium, were FC Den Haag's Aad Mansveld ... and Anderlecht's Rensenbrink.

The national team coaches—Dr. Frantisek Fadrhonc and his No. 2 Cor van der Hart—seem to have patched up a quarrel which appears to have arisen in Oslo.

As reported when he was appointed earlier this year, van der Hart, ex-international centre half and trainer of AZ'67 of Alkmaar, is no No. 2 by nature. And he is alleged to have told his boss to give him a bigger role.

Anyway, on arrival back at Schiphol Airport Amsterdam, Dr. Fadrhonc refused to be pictured with van der Hart. Later a crisis meeting was called to thrash the trouble out while the No. 2's name was rumoured as being on the candidate list to fill the trainer's spot at MVV.

Then a compromise was announced. Following the meeting it was said Dr. Fadrhonc would, in effect, become a kind of off-the-field overlord while Cor van der Hart could roll up his sleeves as the on-field trainer.

Comment from van der Hart: "We'll have to see how it works in practice. I'm optimistic however. We can have a nice working climate I think." And MVV? Ex-FC Bruges trainer Leo Cantjes got the job.

So to the league. No one would have dared suggest in pre-season analysis that FC Amsterdam would produce any shocks in the Dutch premier division this term.

Hit by a financial crisis and unlikely to receive a much sought after subsidy from Amsterdam City Council, club boss De Stoop quit, telling players: "If there is no help from the council I can see the club disappearing at the end of the season."

A bleak outlook for the DWS-Blauw Wit amalgamation which had set out so optimistically a year before. And to add to their woes they were humiliated 6-1 by champions Ajax in the local derby.

FC Amsterdam were down—but definitely not out. Quite to the contrary. Having hovered unspectacularly around the half-way mark, they proceeded to clobber Sparta 3-1 to shoot into third place after five games!

And although they could only draw 0-0 away to mediocre Telstar and drop a place to PSV Eindhoven a week later, more was to come. At home to FC Den Haag they won 3-0 via a Nico Jansen hat-trick and popped into third slot once more.

Having a very impressive season is FC Amsterdam left wing Gerard van der Lem. Tipped for the under-23 national team he was the major thorn in the flesh of Sparta.

Points out the FC Amsterdam trainer: "This is a boy with class and a future. Don't forget he only trains three times a week because he is still doing his military service."

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Mario Zagalo says...

WE WILL DO BETTER NEXT YEAR

WE came to Europe to play football—only football—but after some unfortunate experiences there on our recent tour we had to adapt our game a little. Now I can say that we have learned to play the modern way—what we get we can give back.

What must be clearly understood about our tour, and unfortunately not even many Brazilians appreciate this important difference, we shall be much better prepared next year when we return for the World Cup. Including the run-up to our game against Bolivia in Rio we had the players together for only one week before we set off for North Africa and Europe. Next year our preparations for the World Cup will be as thorough as always and we shall have the benefit of a three month training programme when all the chosen players will be together all the time. This will clearly make a tremendous difference.

Inconsistent

Despite this disability—and it is widely known that the standards of fitness amongst Brazilian players and clubs is at least inconsistent and rarely as high as it should be, the results of the tour were very satisfactory. This does not mean that I was satisfied with the scores we achieved but with our performances. In general terms the objectives of the tour were to observe individual players as closely as possible in unfamiliar conditions and see how they adapted themselves and their play to each challenge. We also wanted to note the tactical systems of each European side ready for the World Cup. This contact is vital for since 1970 when we won the World Cup in Mexico the European game has changed considerably. The best teams in Europe are now playing a very different kind of soccer to that we saw in Mexico.

When Brazilians play against other South American sides—at home or away—there are always differences of style and other problems. But they are not too difficult to overcome. But playing in Europe is quite different. Among the many hazards are the change of climate and above all the time-change. Food is different too, and of course it's always an advantage to play at home. The opportunities to experience these challenges was very valuable for every one though naturally some players adapted themselves better than others.

The trend for the next World Cup is clear. Almost all the national teams in Europe now play to the same system—though with slight variations from one team to another. Apart from Italy who were very rigid and inflexible at all times, the most popular scheme is what I would call an accordian system. The Italians were very rigid, with tight man for man marking, defenders following their individual opponents very closely everywhere. Most other teams used similar methods but were less rigid which allowed the individual abilities of their players to show through. Generally all our opponents were in very good physical condition which allowed them to play this defending-attacking "accordian system" throughout the entire game.

The Brazilians lack of physical condition did not show up in Mexico because at that time they were so very well prepared. But in 1974 it will be very hard indeed and much different compared to what we experienced in Mexico. Our game against West Germany in Berlin provided clear proof of this. It was not until the later stages of the game, played on a very warm day, that the Germans began to tire. Then and only then was the ability of the Brazil's able to show up. My critics claimed that we played too defensively on the tour and particularly in Berlin. I accept all the criticism but do not agree with it.

Physical

If we analyse World football as it is played in 1973 we can see that everyone is playing with the emphasis on defence. On our tour we were no exception because our lack of physical preparation and other factors forced us to defend. But for the World Cup I hope that we shall be able to play each game according to the opposition and impose our own rhythm on the play.

This will be vitally important I think because between 1970 and 1973 physical condition has become even more important than ever before and will remain so for the World Cup. The competition next year will in my opinion be more physical, more violent and more defensive than ever before.

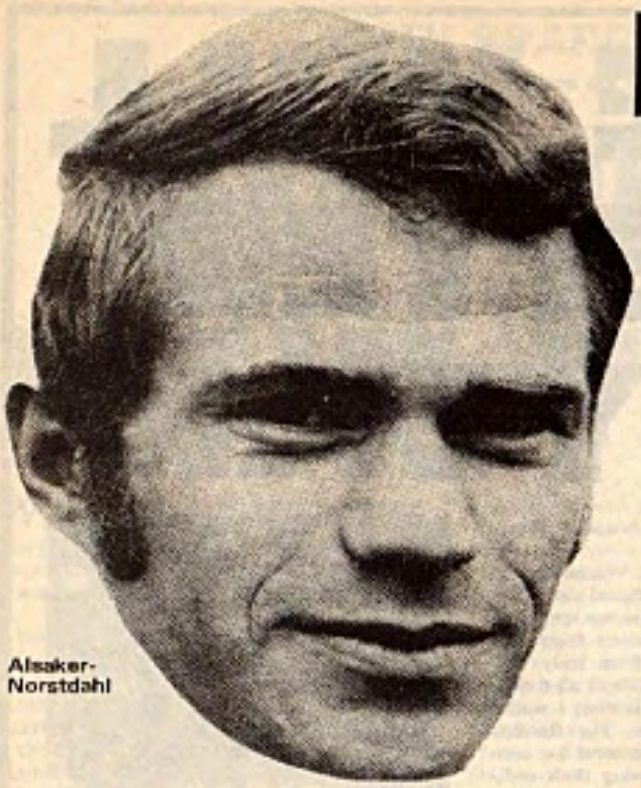
Though it's not really my problem I am worried about the referees. I never had the feeling that the match officials were against Brazil—but bad referees allow too much to pass by unpenalised. This was particularly obvious at free kick situations close to the penalty area. The Laws stipulate that opponents must go back at least 10 yards from the ball but often they were allowed to stand in line no more than six yards away. This law was broken with impunity by most teams in Europe. The referees are not strong enough to maintain the laws. This is not a criticism of referees but an attempt to be constructive and improve things for the World Cup.

Jairzinho of Brazil.

We saw some good referees but we had problems with others, particularly over the walls. But overall I think some of the Laws of the game should be amended. Basketball has developed and become even more popular in recent years and their ruling body has not been slow to change their laws. Football should do the same.

For the World Cup—it will be hard for sure, and defensive. I feel sure we have a good chance to retain the title. But Italy will be very difficult to beat as will England ... assuming they qualify ... and West Germany were probably the best team we saw on our tour. With a good team and playing at home they must be one of the favourites.

MINNOWS TO TAKE IN EUROP



Alsaker-Norstdahl

CLUB FOCUS ON

IF some factions have their way in European competitions the clubs of the calibre of Stromsgodset will not be given the open draw they now receive in the three major tournaments. The minnows will be forced to play-off against each other and be deprived of the giant-killing opportunities they now possess.

Stromsgodset have not exactly set Europe alight with their exploits but they can claim to have appeared in all three major competitions and certainly not been disgraced, though they are still seeking their first success. Still they have managed to win one leg of a match and held the mighty Leeds United for the first time this season.

And it will be a sad day when these smaller countries are left to fight amongst themselves for the honour of playing the Leeds and the Arsenals of the world.

Industrial town

With probably the longest title any club in Europe has at present —Stromsgodset Idrettsforening of Gulskogen—they come from Drammen an industrial town of around 50,000 inhabitants 27 miles from Oslo.

And just over 10 years ago they were obscure even by Norwegian standards, though they originated back in 1907 as a ski-club who decided to add a football section three years later. Now the Stromsgodset club caters for other sports, too, including ice hockey, handball and bandy, a Scandinavian native game. In this latter sport they have had their best triumphs but at least the football section has done its bit in recent years.

This is a vast contrast to the early days when Stromsgodset and the ball game just did not spell success. In fact from the time of their formation the only moment of glory came in 1927 when they reached the quarter-finals of the Cup.

And it was not until 1962 they began to enjoy a change of luck. It started when their youth side reached the semi-final of the Norwegian Junior Cup and it was from this team that the basis of the current side emerged.

With the appointment of Einar Larsen as trainer the fortunes of the senior club swung dramatically, too. They went from the Fourth Division in 1963, the Third in 1965 the second in 1966 and then into the First in 1967 in a remarkable burst of achievement.

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S DESERVE E PLACE PEAN DRAW

N STROMSGODSET

Steinar Petterson.

However once in the top flight they found things more difficult and they struggled for a while. In fact but for a draw in the last match of the season they would have been relegated straight away!

But they consolidated their position and in 1968 managed to finish fourth in the First Division and also reached the quarter-final of the Cup. A year later Stromsgodset were third in the League and crowned this achievement with victory in the Cup Final beating the crack Norwegian side Fredrikstad after a replay. The first game was drawn 2-2 but in the replay, Stromsgodset won 5-3.

Domestic honour

In 1970 they did even better and defeated Ski-og Lyn 4-2 in the Cup Final and also took the championship for a well merited League and Cup double. Larsen, who had been the prime mover behind this success, resigned after this event.

But all this domestic honour meant one more thing—Europe was beckoning and in the Cup Winners Cup they were drawn against the French Cup winners Nantes. They had their first game at home but were soon shown what it was all about and lost 5-0. However with nothing to lose in the second leg they pluckily went out on a winning note with a 3-2 result in their favour.

Home matches

They were fourth in the Norwegian League in 1971 and were quarter-finalists in the cup, too. But this time there was a European Cup fixture with Arsenal and again Stromsgodset were beaten in both legs, losing 3-1 in Oslo where they play their home matches in Europe and 4-0 at Highbury.

Stromsgodset finished third last season in the championship and were knocked out of the Cup at the quarter-final stage yet again. This term they have only been around the top half a dozen clubs in the 12 club League, though they did manage to get to the semi-final of the Cup where they met Viking Stavanger the League leaders.

And they also met their match against Leeds United in the UEFA Cup though not before putting up a creditable performance in the home leg when they held the English League leaders to a 1-1 draw. At Elland Road they were beaten 6-1 however.

Five of the Stromsgodset team are full Norwegian internationals. Goalkeeper Inge Thun (28) has Under-23 and three full caps; Steinar Pettersen (28) the captain and leading scorer over the last six seasons is a former youth, Under-23 and seven times a full cap; Tor Akaker-Nostdahl (28) the sweeper has 10 full caps and forwards Bjorn Oddmar Andersen (30) and Thorodd Presberg (29) ten and four caps respectively.

Andersen is the most experienced player in the side as far as honours are concerned. He has 10 full caps and others at Under-23 level. He was signed in 1967. Presberg has four full caps and also others as an Under-23 international.

Five other players are under-23 caps: Per-Rune Wolner (24) the right back, Svein Dahl Andersen (27) centre back, Odd Arild Amundsen (22) midfield, plus Tor Henriksen (19) and Per-Stale Aarseth (23) who are both forwards.

Stromsgodset have two reserve goalkeepers in Olav Melbye (25) and Tore Jensen (20). Full-back Johnny Vidar Pedersen (28) is experienced without having gained representative honours and other defenders are Tore Adamsen (21) and Helge Karlsen (18). Midfield players Finn Aksel Olsen (24) and Runar Larsen (21) and left winger Bjorn-Erik Halvorsen (22) complete the squad, along with Ingar Pettersen (24) the younger brother of the club's captain. Pettersen is an Under-23 international, too.

Normal occupations

There is no question that the Stromsgodset players are really amateurs. They are reimbursed for losing time from their normal occupations and get some cash for win and draw bonuses but this amounts to around £5 and is scarcely even as much as our "amateurs" received and caused the decision to abandon their designation completely!

They have a variety of occupations including salesmen, teacher, clerk, computer operator and electrician. And it will be a sad day in Europe when the Stromsgodsets of the arena are hit by the effects of any seeding for the benefit of the bigger clubs.

And if it needed an argument against seeding just take a look at the first round in Europe this season and the Italian and Spanish entries. Of 11 starters only four survived—and these two Latin countries get more UEFA Cup places than most!

JACK ROLLIN

WORLD SOCCER DIARY...WORLD SOCCER DIARY...WORLD SOCCER DIARY..

Death of Rudi Hiden... anothe
Sunderland must learn...Mas

WITH THE RECENT death of Rudi Hiden, the Austrian goalkeeper, there are only two survivors of the famous "Wunderteam" of the 1930s now—Zischek and Smistik.

Perhaps it was as well that Hiden and his mourned compatriots were spared the sight of Austria losing 7-0 to England at Wembley; a margin of defeat not suffered against these opponents since the original three fixtures back in the early 1900s.

While the Austrians had nothing for which to play, a weaker display by an international team of their calibre has rarely been seen even at the Empire Stadium. And a couple of weeks later the Austrians rang the changes against the Germans, played defensively and still lost 4-0!

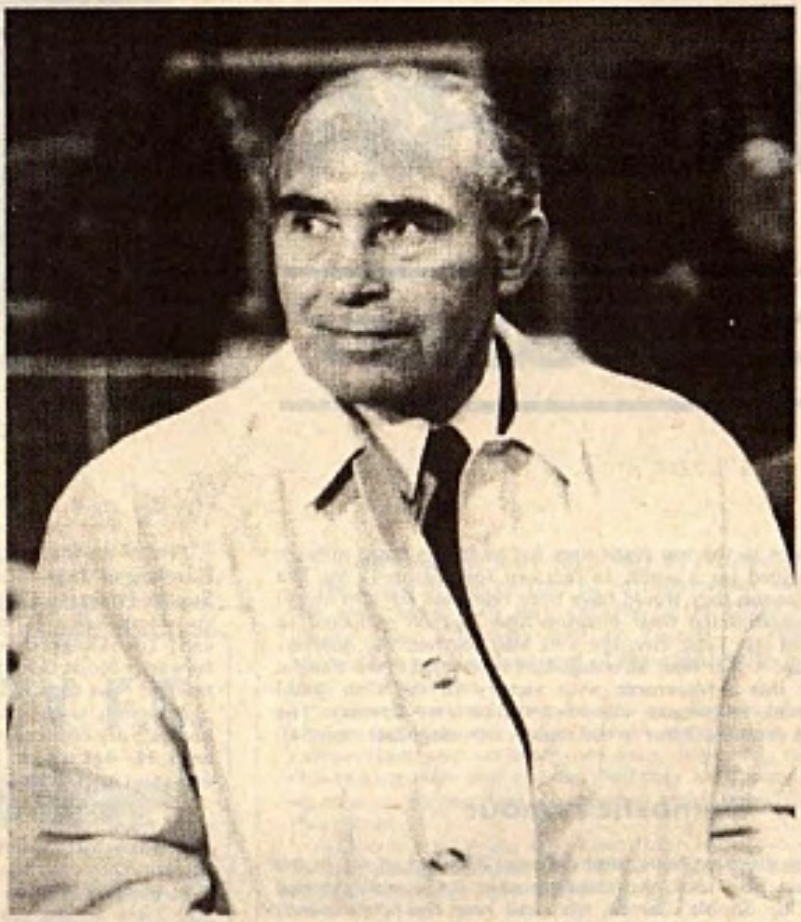
We all know about the exploits of Gerd Muller the Bayern Munich and West German international striker who recently hit his 60th goal in 48 matches for his country against Austria. But among the five other players in the Bundesliga at present with the same surname, one of the most outstanding is Dieter Muller a 19 year old ex-Youth and amateur international with Cologne.

Signed this season from Kickers Offenbach, Dieter Muller is beginning to reveal the type of performances which drew rave notices when attributed to Gerd himself at the same age.

It is sincerely hoped that Sunderland learn something off the field from their opening European Cup Winners Cup game. There was no national anthem played—the local disc jockey said that they did not have either the Hungarian or the British version—and the team and substitutes were not given to the press until just before the kick-off.

On the field there was much more efficiency however against Vasas, a strange team of misfits; some who could play, did not want to and those who did, couldn't.

Wolfgang Overath the West German international midfield player recently played his 300th Bundesliga match for Cologne against Borussia Moenchangladbach and his 70th international against Austria.



England team manager Sir Alf Ramsey, disappointed at his team's elimination from the World Cup.

At 30 he is approaching the veteran stage, but at present seems to be team manager Helmut Schoen's ace schemer for the World Cup. Whether he will remain as such depends on three choices facing the German boss. First he could rely on Gunter Netzer being available for most of his internationals before the World Cup Finals and build the side around the lanky blond of Real Madrid; secondly he could forget Netzer and use Overath alone; thirdly he could try someone different to both and go for a younger midfield trio.

Schoen was upset when Netzer went to Madrid because he did not tell his national team boss before he departed, and it is too late to start experimenting in the key engine room of the side, so it looks as though solution number two will be the favourite, especially as the combination of Netzer and Overath has never really clicked.

Schoen managed to get Muller and Seeler to play together in the 1970 World Cup but Netzer combining with Overath is a different business.

The occasion of Eusebio's benefit match in Lisbon was an ideal opportunity for an enterprising journalist to ask some of the world's top players their personal tip as the next World Cup holders.

Of 14 players and managers approached for their opinions, six voted for West Germany as winners, five for Brazil, two for England (Bobby and Jackie Charlton!) and one for Holland.

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WORLD SOCCER DIARY...

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d facing their biggest playing field since rt of the European and a half ago, are changes affecting

They recently announced a scheme to build a new 120,000 capacity stadium and sports complex on the northern outskirts of the city. The construction will be handled by the American Real Estate Magnate William Zeckendorf Junior, whose corporation built the United Nations Building in New York.

It would mean Real abandoning their Santiago Bernabeu Stadium which would be developed by the same corporation.

But the plans are running into trouble with local authorities. And the battles which are likely to be carried on in City Hall over it are going to be something!

Four Derby County players in the England squad . . . Roy McFarland, Kevin Hector, Colin Todd and David Nish. While training for the England-Poland match. Derby manager Brian Clough, and his Assistant Peter Taylor, resigned.

Talking of Real Madrid one of the few successes they have recorded on the playing field this season has come from the twinkling toes of left winger Oscar Mas.

This former Argentinian international was the principle goal scorer in his native country for nine years and when he was transferred to Spain had scored 169 in 304 games.

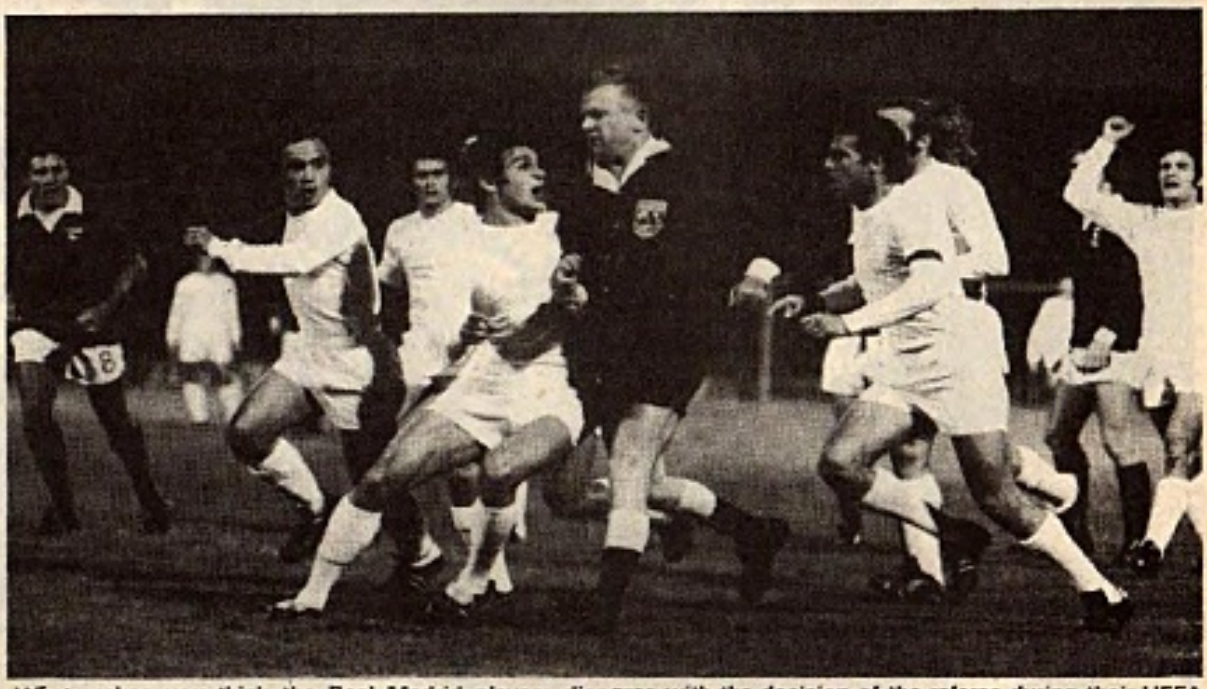
Of course in the list of all time greats in Argentina he is well down but his average of more than a goal every other game compares favourably with almost every other goal-getter in Argentina's history.

The nearest to him was Manuel Pelegrina who hit 231 in 490 games between 1938 and 1956—18 years. And Mas has a better average than names like Angel Labruna, Arsenio Enrico and Herminio Masantonio.

The introduction of a bonus points system for goal scoring in France where teams getting three or more goals get an extra point added to the normal win and draw points has not exactly resulted in bumper crowds.

After nine weeks of the championship, however, the goals tally is quite healthy with an average of 2.90 but the French fans appear apathetic to the trend.

After nine weeks football the aggregate of attendances has crept over 1,000,000 with Paris FC showing the best figures averaging 21,000. At the other end of the scale, however, poor Monaco struggling for points both real and manufactured by goal scoring have managed only an average of 4,000.



What makes you think the Real Madrid players disagree with the decision of the referee during their UEFA Cup match at Ipswich? The match ended 1–0 to Ipswich, and with the second leg drawn 0–0, the English club go through to the next round.

AJAX CHA THEIR STY

MARTIN TYLER reports on the comebacks of George Best and Jan Mulder ...and talks to Barry Hulshoff

AS over 45,000 people found their way home from Denis Law's testimonial affair, conversations centred on fitness. Those paying homage to the "King" had witnessed an intriguing, if somewhat panting, return to the ranks of George Best. And Best, undoubtedly a size larger at the waist and hips, had done enough not to rule out the possibility of complete recovery.

But fitness, that night, did not just concern Mancunians. Ajax, exalted guests at Law's party, had problems of their own. Jan Mulder, who came to Ajax from Anderlecht with a reputation as a world class striker and since then has become something of a white elephant, had survived 45 minutes of a comeback. And, as their forceful central defender Barry Hulshoff told me, the team has had general difficulties with training.

"We have had a whole year when we have not been fit enough," he confessed. "Under Stefan Kovacs, the training was just not physical enough. The emphasis was on technique and tactics, rather than running, and we slowly became less and less fit. Under George Knobel, we are now working very, very hard. And soon we will be in extremely good condition."

Steve James, captain of Manchester United, with Ajax skipper Piet Keizer.

ANGE
YLE

In the Dutch League, the supremacy of Ajax has meant that opposing teams have rarely been able to pose questions about the stamina of the European Cup holders. The big occasions have been interspersed so that the strain of a European Cup tie in mid-week has not been followed by a demanding League match at the week-end. But now without Cruyff, their domestic form has lost some of its inevitability. Without his magical powers in the penalty area, their margin of error has decreased.

Has the team been severely crippled by Cruyff's switch to Spain? Hulshoff strongly denies it: "We have had to change our style of play a little. And we are short of one player, a forward. We, of course, hope that Jan Mulder will fill that gap. But whoever is the new player, we will be alright once he has settled in. It has been difficult scoring goals recently but when we have completely adjusted we will be ourselves again."

Pedigree

Mulder's fight to overcome his knee trouble has clearly become a central issue. For two years his has been a private battle, of little concern as long as Ajax have been winning. His pedigree is immense. Malcolm Allison's eyes light up as he talks of him: "I saw him destroy Arsenal on his own for Anderlecht a few years ago. What a great centre-forward!"

In Manchester Mulder played the first half. It was an appropriate venue. Best held Law's stage, and Mulder's return could find no space in the English press. I'm sure he welcomed the anonymity of it all. Yet he got involved in the game. A sure touch here. A crisp lay off there. And, most significantly, he twice bounded to his feet after solid tackles from a Manchester United defence, which these days is politely called uncompromising.

If Mulder cannot sustain his come-back, Ajax have the choice of paying large sums of guilders for a striker or delving into their own ranks. Neither offers an easy solution. Willie Brokamp, the Dutch international forward at present with MVV Maastricht, has long been put forward as the heir apparent to Cruyff.

Yet his recent form has been so wretched that Knobel must be reconsidering his interest in him. The Dutch magazine *Kick*, who scale players performances from 1 to 5 in each match, took the staggering step of awarding Brokamp 0 after a particularly unrewarding afternoon against Feyenoord.

But, as Barry Hulshoff told me, Ajax have not been spawning their own progeny. "Only now are we giving young players a chance. This was another failing of Stefan Kovacs. He was so involved with the first team that no youngsters played when he was in charge. And, of course, this doesn't help us at a time when we are having to do some re-building."

George Best, after playing in the Denis Law Testimonial match at Old Trafford.

At Old Trafford Gerrie Kleton, who is just past his 20th birthday, took Mulder's place for the second half, and he performed with a rawness only to be expected from his fleeting experience in the Dutch League. More impressive was the tall, powerful defender Pim van Dord, only a month Kleton's senior, who tackled strongly and moved forward with the flair that has become the hall-mark of Krol, Hulshoff and Suurbier.

Attacking

But with Arnold Muhren or Heinz Schilcher, the usual alternative for Cruyff's place, plus a slight reshuffling of roles which finds Piet Keizer in a more central attacking position, both Kleton and Dord will find chances hard to come by.

As Ajax tread warily through a period of transition, Holland are just a month away from their World Cup eliminator with Belgium, which is likely to be a crunch match in more ways than one. Hulshoff is likely to be a central figure in a match which Holland need only to draw to display their talents in the final stages. He has no reservations about what sort of game it will be:

"Sure it will be hard. The game in Belgium, which we drew was very tough. There is a lot to fight for. But we need only the one point and I am very sure we will get it. I think we have better players in Holland, though the natural level in all the Belgian teams is higher. They have more good teams in their league than we do, but I don't think that their best individuals are so good.

"But playing for Holland is harder in some ways than I think playing for Belgium must be. There all the teams play in the same style and the national team plays in that style so the players do the same for their country as they do for their own teams. It is true about England as well. But our teams all play in different ways so that it is a problem settling into the style that Holland play."

Hulshoff feels that World Cup problems will be behind him by the time his club is put to the test in international competition: "We have had a bye through the first round of the European Cup, and the second round should not be too difficult. But we will meet a good team in the third round. That will be the test for us. And by then our rebuilding will be complete."

Law delights Hampden fans

THERE can be no doubt at all . . . it *should* have been a goal. The ball should have been tucked in the net before the keeper had time to think. The 100,000 fans, though, didn't give a damn. The player who missed the glorious chance was, in fact, one of the men who received most accolades after the match.

It could only happen to the amazing, astonishing, astounding Denis Law! He returned to the Scottish International team in the make-or-break World Cup qualifying match against Czechoslovakia at Hampden in September and at the ripe old age of 33 he treated us once again to the style that has given us all a million memories.

There was Denis soaring in the air, dashing on the ground, claiming for everything and generally making a nuisance of himself to the Czech defence. Denis has more than done his share for Scottish prestige, but his wonderful display that night when he helped Scotland through to Munich after being in the World Cup wilderness for 16 years must rank with the best. It is a pity that the Manchester City man couldn't cap this night of nights with a goal.

Faltered

He had his chance two minutes from time. His reserves of strength were just about finished. He had started the game at a tremendous pace and he never faltered. But he still had enough courage to go in with a Czech defender for a 50-50 ball 40 yards from goal. Denis won the challenge and was suddenly completely in the clear. The 100,000 crowd set up another Hampden roar as Law sprinted for goal. Alas, the final touch to a memorable occasion wasn't to be.

Czechoslovakia's splendid 'keeper Ivo Viktor, a man of magic against the Scots, read the situation well, advanced from his goal, forced Law to take the ball to the left and managed to dive full-length to push the ball away. The chance was lost. Law went out to the wing and collapsed in complete exhaustion. Had the chance even come 15 minutes earlier there is no doubt that Law would have hammered it in. But the fans weren't complaining.

Law had proved that he was far too good to be rated just another 'free-transfer player'. He wasn't wanted by Tommy Docherty at Manchester United, but Law, as ever, rose to the challenge and showed on that never-to-be-forgotten night at Hampden that he is still far from finished. Scots boss Willie Ormond couldn't praise the Lawman enough.

"I am absolutely delighted with Law's performance," said Ormond. "If he sustains that sort of form he will definitely be with us in Munich next summer."

Law had stated before the match that he would give everything he had within his powers to help Scotland through to the Finals. He asked for just one 90 minutes in which to do something he failed to achieve in his glorious career . . . appear in a Scottish team that had qualified for the World Cup Finals. Law was as good as his word. Right from the start he was in there darting, leaping and striking at the Czech goal.

Gesticulations

He was the man with the charisma all of his own. The blond hair flashing under the floodlights, the sleeves pulled tightly at the cuffs, the flopping jersey, the arrogant gesticulations. He was the man of menace who led the front-line superbly. Admittedly he didn't do the same running about as Celtic's Kenny Dalglish, but he played his part superbly well. And the Czechs might even grudgingly agree with that!

Bill Shankly, the manager who gave Denis his first chance with Huddersfield, has always been a Law fan. The inexhaustible Mr. Shankly has a gleam in his eye as

Scottish News by ALEX GORDON

he talks about this man Law. "Aye, he is some player," growls Shankly. "I couldn't believe he was a player when I first set eyes on him . . . he was so skinny!

Youngster

"But after a couple of touches I knew he would be a player all right. He had style and flair. But he had even more than that . . . he had cheek. He was doing things that unsettled defenders. He knew all the tricks of the trade and, what's more, he knew them as a youngster. I said here was a player who would win 50 caps for Scotland. And I wasn't wrong was I?"

Shankly, in fact, was deadly accurate. Law won his 50th cap against Czechoslovakia!

Law, the frail kid who once had trouble with his eyesight, never had trouble proving his superb ability. He seemed to sense a goal was coming five passes before the ball reached him. Nothing was too difficult for him in the penalty box. He was the goalkeeper's nightmare. If he had his back to the goal there would be a sudden whiplash overhead kick sending the ball hurtling to its destination. If the ball was bouncing awkwardly he was always in control of the situation to get his body into the right position to flick out a deadly foot. High balls at the near post, far post or smack in the middle were all the same to him. A timely leap, a snap of the head—and the goalkeeper was in trouble again.

This is the magic of Denis Law. The man who struggled back after injury even more determined to show that he still has a lot to offer soccer. When he was out of the spotlight struggling to regain a first team place he found out who his friends were . . . his *true* friends. He got back to amaze a lot of people and he could go on surprising us for a long time to come. We can only hope so for Denis Laws are rare in today's robot-like soccer world.

Praise

Law has that certain quality that makes a genius. To watch him play is to watch poetry in football boots. At his best he can turn in a symphony of soccer skills to match with the Peles, the Eusebios and the Di Stefanos. That is why it was so sad when Denis looked down and out on the soccer scrapheap. If Law didn't have courage and guts he may well have packed it all in. But he had learned to face up to disappointments as well as live with lavish praise.

Law the quiet family man off the field was determined not to quit and we can all be thankful that he didn't. He still has a lot to give. He may not be as sharp as he used to be he may not be as fast or as strong but he is still a great man to have in your team. There can be no argument about that. No other Scot playing today could have led our front-line with the dash Denis gave us against Czechoslovakia.

It wouldn't have been fair to ask Kenny Dalglish, Derek Parlane or Joe Jordan—all highly-talented youngsters—to take on the thankless task of getting into the Czech defence and buzzing around the danger-zone all night. Law had the experience and the knowledge when to put pressure on and when to ease up. He knew when to jump when the tackle was coming from behind. He knew when to move into space to stretch the back-four. He knew when to give support in the air and when to stay put.

Scotland can't thank Law enough for what he did that night. He typified the new spirit of the team . . . the one-for-all-and-all-for-one outlook. And he could go on doing it in Munich. There is still room for improvement in this Scottish side. We can't delude ourselves on that point. There was a point shortly after the interval when the Czechs looked like taking over the midfield. They looked dangerous and the Scottish fans

Pedro Rocha

in an interview with Gregory Tesser

QUESTION: You are considered to be one of the finest inside-forwards in Latin America and a key player in your national team. Yet since your transfer from Penarol to Sao Paulo you seem to have come to a standstill. Could you tell us the reason why your career has remained stagnant since then?

ANSWER: The 1970 World Cup proved to be a great disappointment for me and it was shortly afterwards that I was transferred from Penarol to Sao Paulo. In Brazil, I linked up with the great Gerson and although I am an admirer of his talent, I must say that I found it difficult to play with him as I felt I was being overshadowed.

You've just recovered from a bad injury that made you miss a great deal of this season. Do you think you will be fit enough to represent Uruguay in the World Cup?

A few months ago one of our FA officials asked me the same question, but the matter depends on whether Sao Paulo will release me or not. Obviously I would like to play for my country, and given a chance I hope to make amends for my poor showing in Mexico by helping Uruguay qualify for the Final in Munich. The quality of Uruguayan football is better than it's been since the war, and after our defeat at the hands of West Germany in the 1970 Third Place Final, we obviously have an enormous debt to settle with them.

Your contract with Sao Paulo expires at the end of this year. What do you propose doing then?

Again the answer to this is in the hands of the Sao Paulo management. Some people refer to me as a veteran on the verge of retirement, but I am only 29 years old and I've never felt so fit. I train as hard as ever and my enthusiasm for the game is the same as it was when I was 20. If it were up to me, I would play for another 15 years, as I don't know anything else I like doing more than football.

How did you occupy your time during your recent lay-off?

I certainly didn't laze around. I returned home during the rainy season and the Rio Uruguay had flooded most of the "haciendas". Fortunately, both my farms and house were not too damaged as they are situated some distance away from the river. The situation in the region was at the time very serious and the floods were certainly something the government could well have done without.

Fame came to you at a very early age. You were only 19 when you played for Uruguay in the 1962 World Cup. In 1966 you helped Penarol win the South American Club Championship, and in the same year you were Uruguay's key man when they reached the quarter-finals of the World Cup. Of all the matches you have played, which one remains fully bedded in your mind?

Actually none of the ones you have mentioned! Obviously representing my country in the World Cup is a great honour, but the game I remember most vividly is the 1967 Final of the South American Championship when we defeated Argentina. It was my first appearance in the Final.

The songs, the flags and the firecrackers were in full swing and the atmosphere made me slightly "drunk". The teams were all lined up and when the referee blew his whistle I felt ill at ease, but it only lasted a few minutes. An easy ball gave me all the confidence I needed and as the match progressed everything began to go right for me. And I will never forget the reaction of the crowd after I had scored what proved to be the vital goal. Never again will I experience such a tremendous feeling of triumph.

Now that you are completely fit, what are your immediate aims?

To be the top goalscorer in the Brazilian Championship, something which I am sure I would have attained had I not been injured for so long!

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must have thought another flop was on the way. But all credit must be given to the team for rallying round skipper Billy Bremner and coming out of this bad patch.

Jim Holton was also very impressive at the back. He scored the vital equalising goal at an important stage in the match—just before the interval—and his sure, steady tackling and powerful heading ability gave the defence a solid look. It's a pity he missed the return game in Bratislava, but it is heartening to know that he will be there in Munich.

Composure

Goalkeeper Ally Hunter, of Celtic also deserves great praise from the Hampden match. He looked at fault as Nehoda's 25 yard shot swept into the net to give the Czechs a surprise lead, but he recovered brilliantly to regain his composure and prove why he is so highly rated by manager Jock Stein at Parkhead. Hunter, in fact, made one exceptional save in the second half when the score stood at 1-1.

A Czech attacker bore through and let one fly from 18 yards. Hunter had positioned himself with uncanny judgment. He didn't take the chance of trying to hold the slippery ball that was rising all the time. He beat the ball down and with total bravery flopped on top of it as another Czech was already in the action of pulling back his boot. A first-class save from a first-class keeper.

It's unfair, though, to single out players in what was a real team victory. Everyone played a part. Hunter, Jardine, Holton, Connelly, McGrain, Bremner, Morgan, Hutchison, Dalglish, Jordan, Hay and, of course, Law. These are the men who have led Scotland from the wilderness. No tribute is too good for them. Their next big International date is against the West Germans at Hampden. That should be a clash to look forward to!

Denis Law—has made a successful international comeback for Scotland.

Netzer, Beckenbauer, Muller, Wimmer and company will be welcomed to Hampden for this centenary international, but they should find the new professional approach of Willie Ormond's men vastly different from what they might have expected even three months ago. There is a new pride in Scotland now.

And it is men such as the one and only Denis Law who has helped put it there. I'm keeping my fingers crossed that there may come a day when Denis has a grandchild on his knee and he is looking back down memory lane reciting the tale of how he won a World Cup medal. We can only hope.

CAN WYN INSPIRE BLACKPOOL?

ALL'S quiet once more in North Wales, where the locals are busily tidying up again alongside the Menai Straits now that the very last of Britain's spent-up and raucous holidaymakers have returned home.

It remains to be seen, however, whether summer-time in Snowdonia will develop into the time of Reilly for one particular soccer traveller who has temporarily turned a broad back on the Land of his Fathers in order to make yet another bid for success.

Welsh international Wyn Davies, now with Blackpool.

Wyn Davies, the big boy of the Welsh international game, has become the new hope of the Golden Mile, but whether this tremendous goal-grabber will be able to haul the Blackpool club back into the top circle is a question for which many folk have different answers.

The correct references are available, of course, because it's now nearly 15 years since this well built, six-footer first got an appetite on the playing fields bordering his native Seiont, and commenced a fantastic scoring stint almost in the shadow of the centuries-old Castle of Caernarvon.

Those were character-shaping days in the rough and tumble of the Welsh League, though it's also to be admitted that the going was almost equally difficult after rejecting a civvy street working life in favour of that of a Fourth Division professional with Wrexham.

Yet right at the start the Davies boy was lucky. For at that period all coaching at The Racecourse ground was in charge of none other than Ken Barnes, the new manager and wing-half who had earlier kept the famous Revie plan of the 'fifties ticking.

So there, in the old Gwynedd border town, they taught him the dying art of becoming airborne in goalmouth challenges. And to such good effect that 22 goals arrived in a mere fifty-five League games for a teenager with his eyes on the stars. Naturally, all the outfits with money to spend sat up and took notice.

Bolton were first in, and, backing manager Bill Ridding's assessment, willingly shelled out £22,000. And then got their money's worth with a further 54 goals in 143.

Altogether, the gross tally was just short of a century when Newcastle United weighed in with £5,000 of the best, and, after completing almost six terms at Burnden, Wyn the Goal began hitting and nodding 'em home in a black-and-white shirt.

By the time the boyo reached Maine Road, a couple of seasons ago, his personal transfer chart totted up to £167,000, and now, having moved from Old Trafford to Bloomfield Road, the pointer has swung even more upward in every sense.

I recognise it emphasises the passing of the years, but, additionally, and at one and the same time, it paints a remarkable real life portrait of the subject in cash, games, goals and clubs this way — transfer fees £260,000, games 450, goals 130, clubs 6.

Sometimes I wonder if this son of the Principality ever regrets that youthful decision in favour of constant travel and continuing battles for team spots against a comfortable life at home and with pals in a small coastal town.

But this isn't the occasion for dreaming of what might have been. It's the time for action. Scoring action on behalf of new bosses and the success-hungry fans of The Fylde and the Lancashire coast.

They believe that this big feller with the tremendous goal-poaching ability, could do the trick where so many others have failed since the days of quicksilver Mortensen, and give them First Division soccer next winter.

HJK ANNEX CHAMPIONSHIP

from FRANK SJOMAN in Finland

FINLAND was the first of the Nordic countries to finish their league championship for 1973. HJK from Helsinki took the title with two points to spare from nearest challengers KPV from Kokkola and Reipas from Lahtis. It was HJK's eleventh title and they are with this the most successful Finnish team—their previous victories coming in 1911, 1912, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1923, 1925, 1936, 1938 and 1964. They also won the cup once, in 1966.

HJK were only ninth last year but for this season bought three full internationals; goalkeeper Alaja and forwards Miika Toivola and Heikki Suhonen, the two latter from last year's champions TPS Turku. That did the trick and HJK started well, going 11 games without defeat. They then hit a lean spell but came back in style taking 12 points from seven games before losing the last one, when the title was already secured.

HJK relied heavily on their defence where especially Alaja and skipper and international full back Henry Forssell were the best. The best attacker was Toivola with 10 goals followed by Viro on seven and Suhonen on six. Winners in the scorers' chart was international winger Hannu Lamberg from KPV on 13 goals followed by Vihtila, Ilverkissat, and Loikkanen, Kuopio PS, on 12.

The attendances were marginally down on last year. The best crowd-pullers at home were HJK with an average of 3,750 and newcomers OTP, Oulu, with 3,600. HJK is the best supported team in Finland throughout the years and have the 16 (!) best single attendances for Finnish football. The top figure, 17,293, was in 1965.

HJK are trained by former star-international Kai Pahlman who made 56 appearances for Finland and also is the all-time top scorer in the first division with 190 goals, almost 70 goals more than the next man. HJK play in the Helsinki Olympia-stadium and the dress is: blue-and-white striped shirt, blue shorts and white stockings.

Last year's champions TPS lost three internationals this season and finished ninth while down go the other Helsinki-team Ponnistus and Ta-Pa from Tammerfors. Up from the second division come Pallokissat from St. Michel and Valkeakosen Haka. The latter fell out last year but through offering good jobs they managed to get four international players and that saw them through.

What remains of the Finnish season is the Cup Final and the WC-games versus Albania and Rumania. Both are away and hopes are not high.

Turkish Cypriots to go it alone?

THE Turkish Cypriot Football Chief, Mr. Ahmet Sami, formerly a District Officer in The Government Service, does not believe that his community's footballers would ever regain their proper share in a reunited association. "We are definitely pressing for separate affiliation to FIFA," he said in Nicosia.

This move follows 16 years of separate communal competitions.

The first break came in the 1950s after the Greek Cypriots, united under General George Grivas, began their campaign to rid the Island of British Rule. The Cyprus Football Association split up after severe communal rioting in Nicosia and other centres—according to Mr. Frangos, the decision to part was approved by representatives of both communities.

Civil war

The breach was confirmed three years after Cyprus gained independence, when civil war between the two communities broke out at Christmas 1963.

Since then the Turkish Cypriots have built up a Football Federation of more than 20 teams, playing in first and second division and youth leagues. All grounds used by the Turkish Cypriot teams are owned by the clubs or the Central Federation, whereas the Greek Cypriot teams play mainly on municipally owned pitches.

The Turkish Cypriots took a major step in their campaign for separate affiliation with FIFA when they entertained FIFA Vice-President Mr. Harry Cavan of Northern Ireland last February.

Sport in Cyprus is closely entangled in the political quarrel between Greek and Turkish Cypriots, and the International Football Federation (FIFA) has now been drawn into the argument.

Sir Stanley Rous, president of FIFA, and Secretary-General Dr. H. Kaiser are expected to visit Cyprus before the end of 1973 to investigate an application by the Turkish Cypriot Football Federation for separate affiliation to the world body.

The Cyprus Football Association, composed entirely of Greek Cypriot clubs, is resisting the Turkish move because it claims the republic may be represented at international level by one organisation only.

Its chairman, Mr. Achilleus Frangos, a Barrister in the Attorney-General's Office, says: "The door is always open to the Turkish Cypriot Football Officials."

Mr. Cavan prepared a report on the Turkish Cypriot application which he submitted to the World Body's Executive Council meeting in Leipzig in March. He also had the misfortune to see his Northern Ireland team defeated by a single goal by the Greek Cypriot amateurs representing the Republic—a defeat which cost Derek Dougan his place in the Northern Ireland national squad.

It was the second victory for Cyprus at international level, the first one being over Switzerland eight years before in the European Championship.

Greek Cypriot teams also compete in every European club competition, rarely getting past the preliminary rounds but netting useful income by arranging to play both first round matches away from home before bigger crowds in Europe.

Within the next two or three years Cyprus will have first-class grass pitches in brand new stadia in Nicosia, Limassol and Larnaca. This will enable Cypriot footballers to play the same type of game as European teams do now, and may result in a sharp improvement in their standards.

But the Turkish Cypriots will not be able to share these benefits if they keep their separate identity. In any case Sir Stanley Rous and Dr. Kaiser will not be able to work out a solution and that may be a long way off.

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

CHAOS IN ARGENTINA ENDANGERS THE 1978 WORLD CUP

I STILL can't quite see how the Argentinians think they are going to put on the 1978 World Cup, what with the economic chaos, the political chaos, the kidnappings, the guerilla activity. Alternatively, they may put it on and be even more comprehensively snubbed than were the Uruguayans by Europe in the first World Cup of 1930. It took twenty years before the Uruguayans stopped sulking about *that*.

Meanwhile, much of the news that comes out of Argentina is passing strange; such as that of Humberto Maschio. Poor Maschio. He is certainly not one of Nature's losers, but he has had a very hard, up and down time of it. It may be remembered that, originally one of the famous Trio de la Muerte with Angelillo and Sivori in the South American Championship (RIP) of 1957, he played in Italy for Bologna and Inter, where Herrera reduced him to tears.

In 1962, his, poor fellow, was the nose broken by a left hook from Chile's Leonel Sanchez in Santiago, playing for the Italians against the rabid Chileans, a punch seen by millions on television, and apparently by most people in the stadium save Ken Aston, the referee, and his cautious linesmen.

He returned to Argentina, had a stormy spell, though not wholly an unsuccessful one, as manager of the national team he had once graced. A couple of years ago Maschio, who is still only forty years old, was made manager of Independiente, the Buenos Aires club, fallen on somewhat evil times.

He revived them astonishingly quickly and completely, taking them to success in the domestic competitions, in the South American Cup, and to the heights of the world club championship, where they did their unsuccessful best to kick Ajax off the field (it would be asking rather much of any self respecting Buenos Aires team to stop doing *that*.)

This season, as we know, Ajax belatedly decided that discretion was the better part of having their legs kicked off, Juventus were equally wise, and Independiente were left without an opponent. That was a disappointment to Maschio, who was confident Independiente could beat either side (or kick either off the park?) Worse, much worse, was to follow. Almost incredibly, the directors of the club suspended him for the alleged "crime" of using the ground for practice "at an improper time". The real "crime" was apparently that of demanding the large number of pesos which were still owed to him, not to mention that of having achieved so much in so short a time; something which, it seems, had not pleased certain jealous directors.

Naturally incensed by the pudicrous thirty day suspension, Maschio now sent a telegram to the club insisting that he should be paid his arrears. Their reply was swift, if somewhat irrelevant. They sacked him.

Cup Winners Cup entrants not elite

• *Continued from page 19*

AC Milan, one of the most experienced and successful club sides in Europe, may not be as strong as last year. The red-and-blacks have not found adequate replacements for defender Roberto Rosato and striker Pierino Prati, whom they transferred in the summer. But in midfield Gianni Rivera is still brilliantly supplying ammunition for Bigon and Chiarugi, while the defence is well marshalled by the wily German veteran Karl-Heinz Schnellinger. Milan, who won the European Champions' Cup in 1963 and 1969 and were finalists in 1958, also won the Cup Winners' Cup in 1968 and 1973. With this record, the Italians can be a match for anybody in Europe.

Borussia Mönchengladbach have also parted company with a famous star, their captain and schemer Günter Netzer having recently joined Real Madrid. But his absence has apparently not weakened the team. Köppel, bought as his successor, together with the experienced Wimmer and the highly talented Danner, form one of the finest midfield axis in club football, whilst up front that redoubtable goalgetter Jupp Heynckes is currently topping the scoring chart in the German Bundesliga. In defence Borussia rely on internationals like goalkeeper Kleff plus backs Vogts and Sieloff. The Gladbach outfit began the championship campaign in fine style and soon established themselves as league leaders.

Glasgow Rangers are back in European competition after missing out last season because of disciplinary measures imposed by UEFA. They won the trophy in 1972, when their "supporters" celebrated this triumph with a riot in Barcelona, causing not only bodily harm, but also extensive material damage to the stadium installations. The Scottish club, so rich in tradition, were alas punished for these regrettable disturbances with a two-year ban from international competition, which was later rescinded to 12 months.

And now, as the cup winners of their country, Rangers are back making their sixth bid in this contest in which they had also appeared in the finals of 1961 and 1967, then losing to Fiorentina and Bayern Munich respectively.

Sporting Lisbon, winners here in 1964, could with the luck of the draw surprise even the biggest favourites. The Portuguese have a brilliant goalkeeper in Vitorio Damas, plus fine forwards in the Argentinian centre Hector Yazalde, and the 6 ft. 5 in. giant from Africa, left-winger Dinis. On their own ground they can beat any side, but away from home their temperament may be suspect and they may not relish the heavy or snowy grounds liable to be encountered in some countries in mid-winter.

To sum up, the winners should come from this quartet. Any other team grabbing this trophy would cause a major sensation.

Argentina forward Ayala heads the ball away from Paraguay's goalkeeper Jimenez during their World Cup match in Asuncion which ended 1–1. Ayala scored Argentina's goal.

Maschio explained that not only was there the matter of his back wages, but the directors had alleged that he had "put a wall" between them and the players. Anybody who has had acquaintance of Argentinian directors will know that if he had put barbed wire on top of the wall and a machine gun nest to boot, he would have been well within the bounds of reasonable precaution. I hope Maschio gets all his money, but Heaven knows what the peso will be worth by the time he does.

Torrid

Meanwhile, all those flower stories that appear in FIFA news, from local Argentinian sources, eulogising the new disciplinary dispensations on the field, are made to look slightly sick by the other news of dreadful violence against referees. Indeed, after a few particularly torrid Sundays, the Argentinian referees recently went on protest strike en masse. Another gloomy augury for 1978.

Maschio has also waxed melancholy over the situation of the international team, though Omar Sivori, his companion in those far off days in Lyma sixteen years ago, has got some good results. Gloomily, Maschio notes that only one player remains from the team that he chose; the talented inside-forward, Brindisi.

I don't myself think this matters a button, since those players Sivori got together appear a talented crew, but I think that Cabezon (Big Head as they call him out there with some reason) must be worried about the number of star players who have contracted to join Spanish clubs. Among them are the brilliant goalkeeper, Carnevali, who played superbly against Paraguay in the World Cup qualifying match in Asunscion, Bargas, the little centre-back, who was already playing for Nantes last season, and Ayala, the clever inside-forward, from San Lorenzo de Almagro, who contracted to join Atletico Madrid.

That meant his following the notorious Juan Carlos Lorenzo, who always seems easily able to find employment, despite the trail of carnage following him and his teams around. Which of us can remember without a shudder the Argentinian World Cup team of 1966, with its antics not only on the field against England, but after the match? Later, there was the disgraceful brawl by the Tiber in Rome, when the Lazio players, not exactly discouraged by Lorenzo, attacked Arsenal's after the match banquet which followed a Fairs Cup match.

Elbow

Another Argentinian who has made his presence somewhat painfully felt in Spain is Aguirre Suarez, the defender whose brutal blow with an elbow broke the nose of Nestor Combin when he was playing for Milan in the Inter-continental Final of 1969 in Buenos Aires, against Estudiantes de la Plata. The Spanish Federation, unheeding of the fact that Suarez had even been imprisoned at the order of the then dictator of Argentina for his misdemeanour, allowed him to sign for Granada.

It was the gifted young Real Madrid centre-forward, 21-year-old Santillana, who suffered worst for the omission. Early this season Santillana, who had only just resumed playing again after fears that an internal complaint would rule him out for good, was struck in the face by Aguirre Suarez during a game—purposely, he insisted—so violently that he had to drop out of football, again.

Whatever one may think of the manners and mannerisms of Argentinian football, I think it is sad that their game should be bled white by foreign clubs, as the result of the economic crisis. In Uruguay, things are even worse; there is virtually no end to the great exodus.

Closure

When recently the Government tried to put an end to it, insisting that players chosen for the World Cup squad remain in Uruguay till after the competition, they were bitterly criticised by the great clubs, who threatened total closure, were they deprived of this financial life line.

Sivori, by the way, has had appalling relations with the local Press, refusing to speak to them or to allow them to speak to his players. He is strong in the support of the ageing but charismatic General Peron.

Indeed, he actually accompanied Peron back to Buenos Aires from Spain, and was quickly restored, himself, to his position as national team manager, after being several months out of the saddle. So long as Peron remains in *his* saddle, which will presumably be until he dies, Sivori seems quite secure; unless the results get really bad.

But as we can see from his own and and Maschio's experience, the Argentinian director appears to view success as almost as great a crime as failure. No wonder Juan Carlos Lorenzo, having won the Championship with San Lorenzo, came hot foot back to Europe.

Dutch sneak home

HAVING humiliated Norway with a 9-0 win at home when the Scandinavians clearly ran out of steam, the Dutch squad, scarred by the dispute between their two managers Fadrhonc and Van der Hart, ran into no little difficulty in Oslo. Complacency probably accounted for much of their difficulties for if the players had any reservations about the difficulty of their task these must have been put at ease in the seventh minute. Willy Brokamp out wide made a fine run and followed that with an impeccable cross that found the head of Johan Cruyff. The "Spaniard" tucked it away superbly despite the fact that his heading is well known to be sub standard.

With Ajax providing the basis of the side the Dutch relaxed, content to rely on their skill against the enthusiasm of the Norwegians. The home side could have called up their former inside forward star Odd Iversen back with his old club Rosenbeg after a stint in Belgium but declined to do so. The Norwegians provided some skilful touches and occasionally penetrated within shooting distance of Van Beveren's goal.

With 15 minutes to play the Norwegians suddenly equalised following fine play by Harald Sunde and Tom Lund. This led directly to an uncharacteristic error by PSV keeper Van Beveren that left Hestad with an easy target. Smelling blood and with their tails up the Norwegians began to run with a new energy and the Dutch were forced to struggle. Their £8,000 a man bonus for qualifying in the World Cup appeared to be slipping away in Belgium's favour who were represented amongst the 20,000 crowd by team manager Raymond Goethals. He must have been as disappointed as the Dutchmen were relieved when with only two minutes remaining, stopper Barry Hulshoff moved upfield to produce a "Sunday shot" that gave Holland a 2-1 win and two precious points.

Poor Rumania

WATCHED by Stefan Kovacs at the Zentral Stadion in Leipzig Group IV leaders Rumania were well below their best and finally went down 0-2 to East Germany. The Germans found the weakened Rumanians below par with Nicolae Dobrin and Radu Nunweiler well below their best. Only centre forward Florea Dumitrache really threatened Jurgen Croy, back in the DDR goal but he got little or no support or response from his colleagues.

DDR manager Georg Buschner has done a fine job during his term in charge and watched by a crowd of 95,000 the East Germans fully deserved their success. Though well in command territorially and having Hans-Jurgen Kreische seriously injured when Rumanian keeper Necula Raducana dashed out of goal to leap at him in a critical situation, their goals were both somewhat unexpected in the manner of their making.

Cornel Dinu and Ludovic Satmareanu were Rumanian's strong-men and with the German defence well in control of their half it looked like a stalemate. Then unexpectedly Bernd Bransch the German libero moved upfield to score his first ever

Poland's right wing striker Grzegorz Lato (white shirt) has his shirt tugged by Holland full-back Rudi Krol in the 1-1 draw in Holland.

rev iew by Eric Batty International review by Eric Batty

Norway 1 Holland 2
East Germany 2 Rumania 0
Scotland 2 Czechoslovakia 1
Northern Ireland 0 Bulgaria 0
Poland 3 Wales 0
Switzerland 1 Luxembourg 0
Russia 0 Chile 0
England 7 Austria 0

international goal in 46 matches. Three minutes before the interval the Germans were awarded a doubtful indirect free kick just inside the Rumanian penalty area. Bransch drove the ball firmly into a crowd of players and deflected by a defender the ball flew past Raducanu into the corner. 1-0.

The Rumanians now tried to quicken the tempo of their game, clearly having earlier hoped for a goal-less draw that would have preserved their chances. Kreische, Peter Ducke and Lowe all had good efforts at goal saved and though both sides clearly suffered from nerves it was the Germans who stood the test the better. On the hour Kreische ceded his place to Jurgen Sparwasser and three minutes later the DDR went two up. Again it came from a free kick and once more the goal was credited to Bransch, the German captain and libero who was transferred recently from Division II Chemie Halle so that he could play in the First Division with FC Carl Zeiss Jena.

Czechs go out

CZECH team manager Vaclav Jezek knew the decisive encounter at Hampden would be hard and physical and aware that the Czechs needed only a draw he must have been quite optimistic when they went ahead in the 33rd minute. Nominal right winger Zdenek Nehoda broke away on his own to burst through and send the ball past Hunter, to leave Bremner & Co., with it all to do. Scotland kept up sustained pressure with Bremner a vast improvement on his terrible showing against Brazil.

The critical factor in the result and the way the game was played was probably the weak handling of a Norwegian referee content to hand out cautions and free kicks rather than firm action. The turning point came when Ladislav Kuna, who with Ivo Viktor was the main prop of the Czech defence was cruelly injured and had to be taken off and replaced by the out of form Karol Dobias.

Scotland equalised five minutes before the break when Jim Holton, looking and playing more like a Rugby League forward, headed past Viktor from a corner. From then on, the pressure which had undeniably been on the Czechs was really on and their goal survived a stream of fruitless high crosses.

Leeds reserve Joe Jordan became the hero of Scotland after going on to replace Ken Dalglish and five minutes later took a cross from Willie Morgan and turned it, with his head, into Scotland's passport for West Germany. Significantly for the Czechs, though defenders Samek and Bendl both did well they were at a considerable disadvantage in an aerial battle that was certainly predictable. The presence of Jozef Adamec, the brilliant but temperamental Czech was also an embarrassment for Jezek. Given another attacking player with the determination of Kuna, Nehoda or Stratil, the latter making up in effort what he lacks in skill, the result might have neeb different.

Almost there!

ONLY a miracle can now improve Portugal's slender chance of qualifying after a dull and lifeless goal-less draw between Northern Ireland and Bulgaria at Sheffield. Given Bulgaria's recent poor performances and the absence of Irish forward stars of the quality of Dougan and Best it was perhaps inevitable that the game should die a slow death in midfield. Neither goalkeeper, McFaul for Ireland or Goranov for Bulgaria was ever really extended.

Denev produced Bulgaria's best scoring effort and in a second half burst based more on enthusiasm and energy rather than ability and skill the Irish finally discovered that Goranov could save all but the hardest hit, best directed shots. Clements, coming forward from midfield produced the best effort which Goranov held with time to spare.

Terry Neill the former player-manager had predicted an all-out assault but already eliminated from the World Cup the Irish display was largely dispirited. Only late in the game did they ever really threaten the midfield supremacy of the Bulgarians for whom Christo Bonev gave a superlative performance. Always in space, commanding and directing the play, Bonev sprayed his passes around to feet with rare precision and occasionally showed flashes of his body swerve and brilliant footwork.

Late in the game, Denev came in from the left to force McFaul into action with a shot that could have given Bulgaria both points but, two points clear of Portugal now and with a home game against Cyprus still to be played in Sofia, the result was enough to keep Mladenov (and Bulgaria's) hopes flying.

They will need however to do more in attack if they are to make any impression in the final stages next year however for not everyone will succumb as quietly and willingly as the Irish did.

Welsh hopes dashed

AFTER watching Bulgaria beaten by Poland in Varna recently Welsh team manager Dave Bowen was confident that his side could beat Poland at Chorzow. Had they done so it would have virtually sealed England's fate but would also have been a great miscarriage of justice.

A game littered with fouls and sporadically real violence it would not have surprised any who had seen (or heard about) the battle of Ninian Park when these two sides met earlier. This time the Poles were better prepared and forewarned they gave at least as good as they got. Weak refereeing once again contributed to a match that Poland won emphatically but could have ended in a riot.

Attacking

During rare moments when the kicking and counter-punching waned, the Poles produced some slick attacking football that inevitably brought goals. In particular, the back to form Kazimierz Deyna was brilliant as an attacking midfield general and right winger Grzegorz Lato was a constant danger with many quick bursts from the right flank.

Despite the enthusiasm of the Welshmen, a lapse by Roberts gave the ball to Gadocha who was free and the left winger needed no encouragement to score easily. Within five minutes Poland increased their lead and again Gadocha had a hand in it. Making progress down the left Robert Gadocha crossed hard and high and Lato, bursting into the penalty area seeking just such a ball met the cross in full flight to head firmly past Sprake. At this stage the game was finally thrown away when Trevor Hockey was sent off.

The second half was completely dominated by Poland who launched a constant stream of attacks on the Welsh goal. Their only tangible, additional reward came however when Lato again burst through to penetrate deeply on the right before pulling the ball—a centre en retraite—right into the path of Jan Domarski, who made no mistake.

● Continued on page 45

BENFICA IN THE NEWS SOON

BENFICA's opening to the 1973-74 season has been nothing like the previous term. In the space of a few short weeks they lost their unbeaten League record which had stood for over a year and then saw the rather unsettled relationship they had had with their manager Jimmy Hagan come to an end.

The two incidents were not unrelated, but the first provided the ammunition for the second's gun to be fired. For at Boavista on the opening day of the season Benfica without Eusebio, Jaime Graca and Toni were beaten 2-0. They had been on a tiring trip to Greece where they had played Olympiakos twice winning 3-1 and drawing 1-1. The games were in advance of the Portuguese club's European Cup matches with the same opponents, too. Still the atmosphere at Estoril was not improved by this early reverse especially as the club went through the entire programme last season without losing.

The crowd gave Hagan the bird when Benfica struggled to beat Lexioes with two late goals making it a respectable looking 3-0 but the climax came in Eusebio's benefit game against a Rest of the World team. When two players Hagan had not chosen to play appeared in the second half it was enough for the former England international to walk out, tendering his resignation.

While Benfica have had their problems Vitoria Setubal have been carrying all before them in the League—or nearly. Thirty-five year old Jose Torres a Benfica cast-off when he appeared too old some years back has been in fine form and they thrashed newly promoted Olhanense from the Algarve region 9-0, with the Brazilian Duda getting three. But then Setubal dropped a point at Barreirense in a goalless draw.

But perhaps the oddest event was when Olhanense beat Benfica's conquerors Boavista 2-0, a result which must have given the champions a rude shock.

Benfica, Sporting and Setubal all reached the second round of their European commitments.

NEW FORMATION HITS THE TOP

RWD Molenbeek are providing the early surprises in the League and succeeded in beating Espanol in the UEFA Cup to qualify for the second round. After a good draw away to the champions FC Bruges, Molenbeek (formerly Racing White of course) defeated Berchem 4-0 with Dutchman Eddy Koens getting all of them.

Standard Liege despite a lengthy injury list are doing quite well, too, and similarly came through their UEFA Cup encounter with Ards, but not before some bother.

In the away leg they were beaten 3-2 thanks to a couple of controversial penalties. But Yugoslavian manager Vladko Markovic slammed the team on their return and threatened to fine the players who had not pulled their weight. But Standard won at home 6-1. Josip Bukal their centre forward spent the flight back from Ireland lying down on three seats in the aircraft with a leg injury but recovered and scored four times.

Midfield player Wilfried Van Moer has opened a pub in Liege but assured President of the club Roger Petit that it would be shut every night at 10 o'clock, so there would be no complaints about excessive drinking!

Anderlecht's problems are no nearer being solved either it seems. With ex-CS Bruges trainer Urbain Braems in charge they were beaten 3-1 at his old club after Bruges had been trounced in a friendly 6-0 by Barcelona in Johan Cruyff's debut. Anderlecht lost 1-0 to Standard after a disputed last minute penalty given by referee Vital Loraux and crashed out to Zurich in the Cup Winners Cup on the away goals rule.

Benfica: back row left to right: Zeca, Vitor Martins Adolfo, Malta da Silva, Humberto Coelho, Jose Henrique. Front: Jaime Graca, Nene, Artur Jorge, Eusebio, Simoes (capt.).

Jeunesse ahead

DOUBLE winners Jeunesse Esch were held in their first game by US Runelingen in a 3-3 draw and it took them five matches to get on top of the League again.

Jean Pierre Hoffmann is well on the mark again with a goal a game average and the club did well in the European Cup holding Liverpool 1-1 at home and only losing 2-0 at Anfield in the second leg, though Rene Hoffmann was outstanding in goal.

Jean Moes the Beggen goalkeeper also kept the score down when Switzerland only beat Luxembourg 1-0 in the World Cup.

Olympiakos yet again!

OLYMPIAKOS started the season well enough with two successive wins but AEK Athens with Stan Anderson in charge have kept pace with them.

Other English managers in Greece at present are: Vic Buckingham (Ethnikos), Wilf McGuinness (Panachaiki), Les Shannon (PAOK) and Joe Mallett (Apollon).

The national team were beaten 3-1 in France and the pill was even more unpalatable because the winners were guided by Stefan Kovacs who had been solicited by AEK in the early part of the summer months.

Huracan's Del Valle jumps with team-mate Basile behind (white shirts). Huracan lost this Argentine First Division game against Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata by 2–1 but won the title.

HURACAN TRIUMPH

SOUTH AMERICAN LEAGUE SCENE by ERIC WEIL

ARGENTINA

HURACAN duly won the Argentine First Division Championship with two games still to go after topping the table all season. Although Huracan are one of the big six clubs (Velez Sarsfield has been added to the "big 5"), this is their first championship win since the start of professional soccer in Argentina in 1931. Previously they had won the title once—in 1928.

Although without their leading players—away on national team duty—during recent weeks, they managed to maintain their comfortable six-point lead over other leading clubs who had been similarly hit. Huracan thus qualify for next year's South American Club Championship—the "Libertadores" Cup—in which they will also be taking part for the first time. The other place will go to the winner of the forthcoming national championship.

With two games to Huracan have 45 points, followed by Boca Juniors (39) and River Plate, Independiente and last year's champions San Lorenzo on the 36 point mark.

URUGUAY

A GOVERNMENT "decree" annulling all players suspensions provoked yet another crisis in Uruguayan football. It was principally done to favour Luis Cubilla—an important member of Uruguay's World Cup team—who, after attacking a referee, was suspended so that he would not have been able to continue playing in Uruguay.

The decree naturally resulted in the resignation of the entire Disciplinary Committee, Referee's Committee and most of the club delegates (including big clubs Nacional and Penarol, although Cubillas plays for the latter) who form the Uruguayan F.A. board.

Government intervention of the F.A. was imminent—especially as the row would once more delay the start of the league championship which still hadn't started in August (although South America's soccer season starts in March in most countries).

Once again a compromise of sorts was reached and a new committee formed, but as always happens in Uruguay, these "arrangements" are temporary without bringing a solution and another row crops up sooner or later.

Transfer ban

The First Division finally started on September 1, but even then two clubs were on tour to earn much needed cash and had to return hurridly to play off their first games in mid-week.

Uruguay has now slapped a ban on transfers to foreign clubs until after next year's World Cup finals, but this may be too late to have much effect as many of the World Cup men and other "possibles" have already been transferred for cash which the clubs need to keep going.

There was no money to bring in foreign stars either and the most important pre-season news was that national team coach Hugo Bagnulo was engaged by Penarol (though still staying in charge of the World Cup team) while the other big club, Nacional, have recuperated their Argentine centre-forward, Luis Artime, leading league scorer for three seasons until he was transferred to Fluminense (Brazil) in 1972.

Following Nacional's surprise 1-0 defeat by little club Cerro in the second game, Penarol and Rentistas top the table with six points from three games.

BRAZIL

THE national championship is presently in progress in Brazil, but a dispute is still going on over who won this season's San Paulo State League.

Following a tie on points between Santos and Portuguesa, the two clubs tied the play-off 0-0. Five penalties were then taken by each team and referee Armando Marques awarded the match to Santos while Portuguesa protested that he had counted wrongly and the game was still tied.

Later Marques admitted his mistake and the San Paulo League decided the two teams should share the 1973 championship. But Santos are not satisfied and have taken the case to law.

PERU

BRAZILIAN coach Waldir Pereyra "Didi", who took Peru to the last World Cup finals, was expected back in Lima where the Alianza Club had engaged his services.

Universitario leads the First Division after 19 games with 25 points, followed by Atletico Chalaco and Sporting Cristal (25).

● *In Chile* the league championship has been suspended since my last article due to political trouble.

TWO GOALS AND SIX POINTS...

by ARTHUR ROTMIL

WITH the princely total of six points, obtained by scoring just two goals, the Swiss national side journeyed to Rome on October 20 to do battle with the Italians in the decisive World Cup qualifying tie in Group II. Before any students of international football start reaching for their fixture lists, and/or calculating machines to find out how these freak statistics were arrived at, let me explain that two 1-0 victories over Luxembourg, plus two goalless draws with Italy and Turkey produced these astonishing if utterly depressing figures.

But only the boldest optimists or incurable fanatics, could possibly expect the Swiss to win this group with the lowest total of goals since this method of deciding football matches had been invented—be the ingenious English, I think. I must also hasten to add, the startling fact, that in these four games Switzerland did not concede a single goal either, and if that isn't a record, then it jolly well ought to be.

Having got this off my chest, it may now be worth relating how the brave Helvetians overcame Luxembourg for the second time by the decisive margin of 1-0. In the magnificent setting of my favourite summer holiday resort of Lucerne, the capacity crowd of 18,000 at the Allmend stadium witnessed a fulminating start by their team who in the first ten minutes had scored a fine goal, created three golden opportunities and forced five corners—but the score remained at 1-0. And this goal which Rolf Blattler fired into the top corner of the net, after a cunningly struck free kick by Odermatt, proved good enough for both points!

Penetration

The Swiss gained 21 corners, they had at least 10 clear cut chances, but their old weakness—lack of penetration, has let them down. The absence of the indisposed goalkeeper Prosperi and the injured *libero* Chapuisat, had of course no bearing on the ultimate result. The man really missed up front was Jeandupeux, whose electrifying bursts and explosive shooting might have made a difference to the score line. It was so important to the Swiss to hammer in a few goals more against Luxembourg, in order to catch up with the 10-0 goal tally of the Italians, but it was not to be.

The match also proved that the era of the famous midfield axis Odermatt—Kuhn, who are ageing, is nearing its end. Neither exercised enough influence on the operations in the "engine room" and through their pale showing the whole side seemed to struggle to find any sort of rhythm. In addition, the debut of Marcel Cornioley 23 (Yon Boys) was a disappointment. Another promising forward, Pfister from Servette, could not be considered because he was unable to get leave from his army unit!

Victorious

Fortified by their champions Jeunesse d'Esch having held England's mighty Liverpool to a 1-1 draw in the European Cup, the Luxembourgers fought bravely, but even though they fielded three professional "mercenaries" in Louis Pilot (Antwerp), Paul Phillipp (Union St. Gilloise) and Nico Braun (Metz), they remain a footballing dwarf, and should have been swept aside by the Swiss, without too much trouble. At the end, the Swiss XI were whistled off the field by the disappointed crowd—it is not often that this happens to a victorious national side in this country!

FC Zurich set pace after Basle slip-up

IN the Swiss championship the cup holders FC Zurich set the early pace, taking advantage of some uncharacteristic lapses by the title holders Basel. Zurich's local rivals Grasshoppers helped along by winning on Basel's feared St. Jakob ground by 3-1. Chasing Zurich were surprisingly the new boys Xama Neuchatel and St. Gallen, with Basel and Grasshoppers in close attendance.

Gates in the League are booming again after last year's alarming drop which was supposedly due to the extensive TV coverage of the Olympic Games from Munich, which coincided with the early part of the soccer programme in this country. Attendances in the first five weeks of the season were in fact up by nearly 60,000 on last year.

In the same period 119 goals had been scored, as compared to 91 at the same stage last term. But the League Cup is still not tempting the fans. The favourites Grasshoppers drew for their semi-final against Servette a miserable crowd of just 3,150 paying customers. The other semi-final between Biel and Winterthur also produced a meagre gate of 3,100.

Grasshoppers, who are currently one of Switzerland's more progressive clubs, have embarked on a most ambitious experiment ever undertaken by any club here. The managerial tandem of Erich Vogel and Istvan Szabo, both 34, have devised a training schedule which has to fit in with the player's employer, or education authorities.

Only the Swede Ove Grahn and the German Rainer Ohlhauser are full professionals. The rest are following their various occupations in trade, industry, or are students. A player like forward Christian Winiger for instance, who is an architect, cannot get time off for daytime training, as easily as a scholar. Thus the managers train their charges whenever they can, at night or by day, in groups but also individually!

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Philadelphia Atoms clinch championship in Dallas . . .

from COLIN JOSE

A GOAL by former University of Pennsylvania star Bill Straub five minutes from the end of the championship game, clinched the 1973 North American Soccer League title for the surprising Philadelphia Atoms in this their first year of operation.

Playing in Dallas, Texas before a record NASL play off crowd of 18,824, and against the home town Dallas Tornado, the Atoms with six Americans in their line up were always in command but lacked the scoring thrust that had been provided all season long by Andy Provan and Jim Fryatt, who had been on loan from Southport of the English Third Division.

With the two British strikers having been recalled for the start of the season, the Atoms found the experienced Dallas defence tough to break and it was not until the 20th minute of the second half that they finally took the lead. Even then it was left to Tornado defender John Best to turn a free kick from Roy Evans past his own goalkeeper.

Great chance

Dallas badly missed John Collins, Richard Reynolds and Nicky Jennings who had all been recalled to Portsmouth and rarely produced the form that made them such a power in the NASL all season. However, in the 77th minute the Tornado got a great chance to equalise when Ilija Mitic hit the upright and from the rebound a shot by Mohammed Attaih was deflected by goalkeeper Bob Rigby and cleared by Chris Dunleavy.

But Straub, who had been signed from Montreal earlier in the season, had the last word with a fine header to put the issue beyond doubt and give Philadelphia a well deserved 2-0 win.

The championship game climaxed the most successful season in NASL history, a season in which not only attendances rose but also standards, and those teams that tried to maintain a status quo from other years were left behind.

Average attendance throughout the regular season was 6,920 while for the three play off games it jumped to 15,533, not high by European or South American standards but highly encouraging for North America where soccer has always been an also ran.

Perhaps even more important still is the impact made in 1973 by the young American players in the league. Kyle Rote of Dallas won the scoring championship in this his first season, Joe Fink of the new York Cosmos hit a hat trick on his NASL debut and players such as Bob Rigby, Bob Smith, Barry Barto and Stan Startzell played vital roles in the success of the Philadelphia Atoms.

Nor is this to forget the St Louis Stars where American players like Mike Winter, Steve Frank, Gary Rensing, Pat McBride, Gene Geimer, Willie Roy and newcomer Al Trust continued to gain experience. Almost all of these players along with Mike Seerey of the Miami Toros emerged from U.S. college soccer and with U.S. born Al Miller, coach of the Philadelphia club NASL coach of the year, a former college coach at Hartwick College, the colleges are finally beginning to make an impact on the NASL scene.

This has to be where the future of soccer lies, with American born players learning their soccer in the colleges, the base on which the major U.S. sports of football, baseball and basketball are founded.

Experiment

Up in Canada, Montreal Olympique coach Graham Adams experimented with the use of Canadian players, principally those who had played in the Quebec youth team. At first he had his problems but as the season progressed Montreal began to come on with young Canadian international Chris Horrocks holding down a regular place at right back.

Toronto had similar intentions but couldn't obtain the players they needed but even so two young Canadians Joe Schiraldi and Peter Roe made their mark and gained valuable experience.

The Toronto Metros might also have provided us with out first real evidence of NASL standard. The regular season over they played and beat Moscow Torpedo in a superb game at Varsity Stadium. The score was 3-1, and yet before the tour started NASL Commissioner Phil Woosnam said that he felt that there was not a team in the league capable of beating the Russian club.

In other games on the Torpedo tour they beat Montreal 4-0, tied the New York Cosmos 2-2, beat the Baltimore Bays 6-0, the Dallas Tornado 2-1 and the NASL All Star team 3-1.

CANADA ON TOUR

THE long proposed tour of the Canadian national amateur team to Europe was finally set for September and October. The Canadians kicked off with a game against 1st F.C. Nurenberg in Nurenberg on September 25 and then flies to Malta to play a Maltese Select team in Valletta. The itinerary then included a game against the Maltese amateur team again in Valletta, Copenhagen City in the Danish capital, Luxembourg in Luxembourg and Northern Ireland in Belfast.

The Canadian team was coached by Bill McAllister in the absence of regular coach Frank Pike who was not available. McAllister has been assistant coach for the past two years and holds Scottish and English F.A. certificates.

Players who made the trip were: Goalkeepers: Tony Chursky (Simon Fraser University), Greg Weber (University of British Columbia), Defenders: Gary Ayre (New Westminster Blues), Kevin Grant (Hamilton Croatia), Sam Lenarduzzi (Vancouver Italia), Jim McDonald (Toronto Metros), Frank Sauer (London City); Midfield: Gary Batchelor (Winnipeg Fort Rouge), Jim Douglas (St. Catherines Heidelberg), Brian Gant (New Westminster Blues), Chris Horrocks (Montreal Olympique), Brian Robinson (Victoria Mens Club); Strikers: Gary Aubert (Winnipeg Fort Rouge), Chris Bennett (Vancouver North Shore), Jim Corsi and Gordon Wallace (Montreal Olympique), Buzz Parsons (Vancouver Italia), Joe Schiraldi (Toronto Metros).

The game against Malta, Luxembourg and Northern Ireland were full amateur internationals while the other games provided the players with much needed experience. The Canadian Soccer Association had hoped to arrange more internationals but the congested European schedule prevented this.

Rethink for FA in Bulgaria

FOLLOWING the morale shattering display at home to Poland national team manager Christo Mladenov had a really serious re-think about the form and fitness of his players. The FA supported him by insisting that their top clubs played their mid-week matches in European competitions without their internationals who were called up for special training under Mladenov.

In a bid to test the fitness of their First Division players the FA ordered every club to set their players jumping (high and long), sprinting and distance running, setting reasonable limits for pass marks. Half a dozen clubs had a majority of players who failed to pass the tests and their coaches have been fined and severely censured.

Dominate

Levski-Spartak continue to dominate the championship race though after the early burst of three games a week only three rounds of matches have been played in the past month. With three more straight wins Levski have maximum points from their seven games to lead by three points over local rivals CSKA (champions) and Lokomotive Plovdiv (runners up). Last season's Cup finalists Beroe (Stara Zagora) continue to show their undulating form. Twice winners by eight goals they crashed 6-1 away to Lokomotive in Sofia and allowed unknown Gabrovo to sneak up into fifth place when they went down 2-1 there. A fortnight earlier Gabrovo had accounted for Botev & Co, the Plovdiv squad underlining that at home they are now a match for anyone.

With Jekov still out of form and perhaps over the top, CSKO continue to find life hard going. They won by the minimum 1-0 away to Cernomore at Varna, beat Trakia 4-2 at home and then in another derby week-end beat Slavia 2-1 to stay in touch with Levski. But it is the old favourites all the way, even if Aladjov & Co did struggle to beat Akademik Sofia, neighbours and bottom of the table 2-0.

Yugoslavia team against Hungary: left to right Dusan Bajevic, Enver Maric, Vladislav Bogicevic, Ivan Buljan, Josip Katalinski, Nenad Bjekovic, Vladimir Petrovic, Brane Oblak, Jurica Jerkovic, Jovan Acimovic, Drago Varec.

RUSSIANS WORRIED

HAVING played three matches a week since mid-April, the championship was well up to date and the final stage of the FA Cup reached when a virtual shutdown was effected to give Evgeni Gorianski time to prepare for the international match with West Germany and the critical World Cup play off against Chile. Unable to score goals —even at home—the Russians are clearly worried, and after the defeat against the Germans Gorianski was given a free hand.

After temporarily losing their place at the top of the table Ararat Erevan already assured of a Cup Final place have eased themselves back into the lead over Dynamo Kiev. With six games left they lead the Kiev club by one point with Schachtjor Donezk six points away and Dnepr and Zarja spread out behind.

At a critical stage Ararat rose to the occasion to produce three successive victories—4-0 at home to Kairat (Alma Ata), 1-0 away to champions Zarja and 3-1 at home to manager Nikita Simonian's former club Spartak Moscow.

Dynamo Moscow who looked like a serious challenger blotted their copy book when they dropped a point (1-1 and 5-4 on penalties) in the local derby v CSKA Moscow and then were firmly pegged back when they crashed 0-3 away to Dynamo Kiev. Helping Ararat's climb back to the top, Dynamo Tbilisi beat their Kiev counterparts 1-0.

Amongst the relegation candidates are Torpedo Moscow the Cup holders who lost their derby game with Spartak (1-1 and 4-5 on penalties and no point) and also too close to the dropping zone for comfort are Zenith Leningrad. They dropped several vital points through missing the end of match penalties.

Stephanovic out

WITH 25 Yugoslavs in France and more in Spain, Austria and West Germany the game continues to flourish. While OFK Beograd have temporarily lost the services of international full back Stepanovic (knee operation), centre forward Santrac (called up for Army service) and right winger Petkovic joining Troyes in France, they have still managed to keep contact with the new leaders.

At the eighth round of league games and unbeaten at home for more than three years (51 games) they went down 0-1 to Celik (from Zenica) who topped the table in the first five games, are still unbeaten and have conceded only three goals.

Amongst the early pace-makers were newly promoted Proleter coached by the former international forward Milos Milutinovic. Proleter who play at Zrenjarin went top after winning 4-0 away to NK Zagreb (promoted with them) but then lost three games in a row.

The biggest crowd of the new season watched the Belgrade derby Red Star v Partizan and 60,000 paid to see the encounter at the Maracana which was settled by a penalty taken for Red Star by their international defender Bogijevic. In the previous round Red Star had gone down 2-1 to their depleted neighbours OFK who have former international goalkeeper Milutin Soskic as their new boss. Slobodan Santrac scored his last goal for OFK before joining the Army though Red Star were also well below full strength.

Two old established and fashionable clubs Dinamo Zagreb and Hajduk Split have got off to good starts. Both sides have excellent players though the Zagreb club has been split for two years by internal problems that now appear to have been resolved. After topping the table Dinamo were crushed 3-1 at home by Red Star who have produced a new young right winger Vladimir Petrovic who within a few weeks of his league debut won his first cap against Hungary. Dinamo's consolation was the knowledge that they have won back their fans with a 65,000 sell out.

Brian Marshall spotlights a manager whose fortunes have slumped since leaving Arsenal

PROBLEMS FOR HOWE AT WBA

THIRTY months ago Don Howe was on top of the world. As coach of Arsenal he had played a leading role in guiding the London club to the elusive League and Cup double and was widely acclaimed for his work at Highbury.

Within a few months he had returned to his old club, West Bromwich Albion, as their new manager. But he has failed to enjoy the success he achieved with Arsenal and freely admits that "My record with Albion is diabolical".

Like Malcolm Allison, he has discovered that there is a tremendous difference between being club coach and club manager. The experience of being a manager is a long, often painful, journey and even the likes of Bill Shankly did not achieve immediate success when they moved from the players dressing rooms to the driver's seat.

But in the case of Howe it must be a massive nightmare to watch his team struggle. They have already slumped into the Second Division and even in this lower section they have been struggling to such a degree that it is not too difficult to envisage them involved in another relegation battle come next April.

Failures

So what has gone wrong at the Hawthorns since the appointment of Don Howe?

In retrospect, it is now obvious that he discarded his experienced players far too quickly and the replacements have been disappointing failures.

Howe has also been hit by injuries to such a key player as Jeff Astle. Three times he has been forced to drop out of the team and now there is a big question mark against his career as a top flight Football League player.

Besides the absence of Astle, manager Howe discarded long serving John Kaye, mid-field general Bobby Hope, goalkeeper Jim Cumbes and George McVitie. Later he bought and sold Bobby Gould and then parted with Colin Suggett to Norwich City.

One by one the departure of these players was not expected to pose any problems but in actual fact it had an eroding effect which culminated in them being relegated.

Ingredient

The spirit within the team was almost totally destroyed and at the present time it is obvious that the most important job on hand at the Hawthorns is to restore this vital ingredient.

Howe, too, must be at his wits-end in the present crisis although he flatly refuses to acknowledge that the club is in such a bad position.

He says: "The club was not in the greatest shape when I arrived. I honestly believe that I have established a healthy base upon which we can work in the future."

Unfortunately for Howe the fans judge a club upon their present performances and they have not been very good over the last 100 games since he took over.

The trouble appears to be due to the fact that the players themselves have not been able to adjust to Howe's advanced coaching methods. Howe has attempted, unsuccessfully, to mould the players into his system and it has simply failed.

Howe has been unable to recognise that his first priority was to work with the players he had at his disposal and gradually achieve an improvement.

Howe, instead, attempted to impose his own advanced coaching methods on the players who failed to respond with the result that the club currently find themselves in their worst position for over two decades.

Injection

Albion badly need an immediate injection to improve their flagging fortunes. Howe's signings, unfortunately, have not had this effect despite spending over £250,000 on such players as Alistair Brown from Leicester City, Willie Johnston from Glasgow Rangers and David Shaw from Oldham Athletic.

All three quickly became afflicted by the malady which overhangs the Hawthorns. The result was that the harder Albion tried to repair the damage the worse the problem became.

Howe, who has been in sole charge of team affairs since his arrival, feels that Albion require at least two experienced players to boost the club's failing image. But this is a step which he could quite easily have avoided in his early days at Albion.

He says that the fans can help by giving their support but they have become very bitter about the performances of the team over the past two seasons and it will be a hard struggle to persuade a lot of them to return to the club in the present circumstances.

The Albion manager, however, is convinced in his own mind that he is on the right lines. He says: "My pride is hurt and my reputation is at stake, but I know that, given time, I can make the club great again. Whether the results and rumblings outside the club will allow me to do this only time will tell."

West Bromwich Albion manager Don Howe.

At the present time he has the support of the club's chairman, Mr. Jim Gaunt, who was responsible for Howe joing the Albion as their new manager.

Gaunt says: "No one is happy about the present position in which we find ourselves. The players may have dropped their heads a little but I think that, given the encouragement, we will improve."

But time is an important factor and with the season already approaching the halfway stage, Albion must stage a revival to appease their critics, or they could suffer a similar fate which befell Huddersfield Town last season when the Yorkshire club slumped into the Third Division after gracing the First Division only two seasons previously.

The responsibility rests upon the shoulders of Don Howe, the man who must instigate the improvement if Albion are to survive this traumatic experience.

Storms rage with no stars in Hungary

by LESLIE VERNON

CRISIS, crisis everywhere, and not a bright star in the sky . . . This is the story of Hungarian football at present, with storms raging at Vasas and Ferencvaros. The former made the worst start of a season for years, and their miseries culminated in a week when they were k.o'd from the Cup Winners Cup at Sunderland, and humiliated by Tatabanya to the tune of 3 goals to 0!

Last season, Lajos Baroti was hopeful that he would put the club on the road to success, and their promising performances were signs of a revival. But it all turned extremely sour this term, when the loss of the experienced Dr. Puskas weakened the midfield, and left the team without a "spiritual" leader on the field. After the Sunderland debacle at the Nepstadium (0-2) the usual revelations appeared in the papers, telling all and sundry that some of the younger players had been drinking heavily, and weren't fit for competitive football.

Apparently "Wonder Boy" Bela Varadi led a midnight expedition to Lake Balaton with three of his team-mates, and they spent the night there enjoying gypsy music and an overdose of the famous Tokay wine. Home defeats by provincial teams didn't help morale, and the management decided to notify the national team boss Illovsky not to consider Varadi for his squad.

Veteran

Vasas were 14th on the table wit fiveh points from eight matches after the latest defeat and the veteran coach Baroti tendered his resignation. It was not accepted, and now the club is at the crossroads!

Ferencvaros after winning three important derby games suddenly began to drop points to inferior opponents, and the "grapevine" immediately concluded that the players intended (once again!) to get rid of coach Csanadi. At home against Szeged, Fradi faced ten men for 83 minutes because Meszar the visitors' link-man was sent-off shortly after the start. Yet quite incredibly, the green-and-whites lost 2-1. They were also beaten by Zalaegerszeg and of course, by Gwardia Warsaw 1-0 in the UEFA Cup.

Florian Albert declared that he was unfit for the return leg in Poland, and with several others sidelined either through injury, (Geczi, Pancsics) or suspension (Juhasz), the depleted team were thrashed. Finally, Csanadi got the message, and in his case, the resignation was accepted by the management. Temporarily, Dezso Novak the club's ex-international full-back took over the reins, but he, an active player until recently, is not an ideal choice.

It seems to me that until the coaches are given a free hand and a workable transfer system is introduced, the players will always have the last word in any dispute. "I knew that some of the players were out drinking and should have been dropped, but who else have I got to replace them?" said Baroti to me in Sunderland recently. It's an ill wind . . .

The downfall of Vasas and Fradi helped some of the provincial clubs a great deal, and it was Salgotarjan who remained unbeaten in the league the longest. In the eighth round, they lost to Honved 3-0, Kozma scoring twice to bring his total up to 11 for the season. Raba ETO are in second place, Tatabanya third, but only Honved can present a possible danger to Dozsa. The lilac-and-whites are 2 points ahead of the field, and have 4 points to spare over Honved—quite enough for a comfortable (too comfortable) ride to the title.

The newly-promoted clubs—Dorog and Haladas—are in the relegation zone, and Egyetertes haven't won a match yet.

Despite a slump in the fortunes of the giants—or perhaps because of it—attendances are soaring, and there has been an increase of 200,000 after 56 matches have been played. The aggregate is still just above 10,000 per game, but the upward trend is encouraging.

Both Dozsa and Honved are optimistic concerning their forthcoming clashes in Europe. Ujpest were drawn against Benfica in the Champions Cup, and the Army team will face Locomotive Plovdiv in the UEFA Cup. Endre Farsang, general manager of Dozsa said: "We played Benfica in the '60s and they beat us quite easily. But the balance of power has changed since then, and I am pleased that we have drawn a really good footballing side. I am confident that we'll reach the quarter-finals." Jozsef Meszaros the Honved coach: "We ought to beat Plovdiv. They are not in the front rank of international football. Last season we also drew Bulgarian opponents in this round, and lost to Beroe Stara 3-1. They did surprise us, but that won't happen again!"

The national team had a fairly successful trip to Belgrade, where they drew 1-1 with a surprisingly inept Yugoslavian side. Prematch the Hungarian press would have been satisfied with a narrow defeat, but afterwards they agreed unanimously that the Hungarians should have won. Illovsky gave first caps to goalkeeper Meszaros of Vasas, and sweeper Horvath of Dozsa in this eleven: Meszaros—Fabian, Pancsics (Kovacs), Horvath, Balint—I. Juhasz, Kocsics, Vidats—Szoke, Bene, Zambo. Bjekovic scored in the 17th minute, and Bene equalised in the 47th, finishing off a clever move engineered by Juhasz and Kocsics.

Meszaros, who also captivated the Sunderland crowd, had an excellent game, and Horvath made a satisfactory debut. A draw away from home is always a reasonable result—pity that the Hungarians will only be involved in friendlies until the next European Championship.

Finally, here is the Freudian slip of the year. "Nepsport", writing about Leeds, due to a typist error, referred to the England defender as Borman Hunter! And I thought that charming character was "somewhere in South America!"

The Hungarian team that drew with Yugoslavia. Left to right: Kocsis, Szoke, Fabian, Zambo, Juhasz (I.), Horvath, Vidats, Balint, Pancsics, Meszaros, Bene.

International review by Eric Batty

Swiss struggle

MODERN tactics, based on deep defence, man for man tight marking and at least one sweeper or libero have made reasonable results—if not victories—within the reach of almost everyone. Given that is the physical condition, previously referred to as stamina, that will enable the defensive players to run for the entire ninety minutes.

The Swiss were in complete command of this match throughout but as their goals figures in the World Cup indicate they have problems in front of goal. In four matches they have scored only twice, though this includes a home 0-0 draw against the group favourites, Italy.

In Lucerne, where the Swiss entertained Luxembourg they took an early lead when Rolf Blattler put them ahead after only three minutes. The 18,000 crowd expected a cricket score, and indeed the Swiss needed one if they were to visit Rome looking for the draw which appears to be the most they can hope for against Italy. Kobi Kuhn and Karl Odermatt kept the Swiss attack plugging away incessantly but further goals would not come, in part due to some fine defensive work on the part of Louis Pilot the Luxembourg captain, very capably aided by Hansen and Philipp. Moes in goal also did all that was asked of him and after their early optimism the Swiss fans experienced another very frustrating evening.

Theoretically it is still possible for the Swiss to qualify. To do so they must either beat Italy and draw away to Turkey or, alternatively, draw with Italy and then beat Turkey by eight clear goals. Neither possibility looks even remotely likely and though the Swiss, like the Czechs can stroke the ball around well the hard fact of football life—that this is not enough—will almost certainly be driven home.

USSR out?

IN the last twelve months the Russians have found it extremely difficult to score goals and the visit of Chile to the Lenin stadium proved no exception. Against all the experts advice, the Chilean defence stood firm though right from the start wave after wave of Russian attacks broke on the heads of Figueras and Arias in front of Olivares' goal.

That figuratively and literally tells the story of the encounter for the Russians insisted on an aerial battle, convinced that the Chilean defenders would crack upstairs if subjected to sufficient pressure. In the event they didn't and the Russians despite the sure knowledge that they were playing the game the wrong way either persisted in wild hope or more likely were unable to change the pattern of their play.

● *Continued from page 37*

Meanwhile Chile broke away intermittently to set up some delightful counter attacks. Four or five times they threatened Rudakov, restored after suspension to the Russian goal. Caszely and Velez were the most dangerous figures for Chile and their performance augers well for the return in Santiago.

In midfield, Muntjan and Kuznetsov maintained a firm if sometimes irregular grip on the direction of the game and kept Onischenko and Blokhin well provided with passes. From there the Russians attempted to score via a stream of high crosses intended for the head of Andriassian who was outplayed by Figueras. Olivares had just one let off in the twelfth minute when a shot from Blokhin hit his crossbar but on his all round performance the keeper deserved just one touch of luck.

Still breaking away occasionally at the end Chile survived without ever really losing their composure. They demonstrated in brief moments of attacking football, as they did at home to Peru that they can play skilfully and effectively and assuming the Russians decide after all (which is in doubt as I write) to send their team to Santiago, the ball is in their court. They have a potential matchwinner in Carlos Caszely, already bound for Levante in Spain's Second Division, en route it is said to neighbouring Valencia . . . next season.

England riot

HAVING struggled for months to find efficient free-scoring spearheads the England camp must have been greatly encouraged by the assassination of Austria. Allan Clarke in particular always looked dangerous though it must be doubtful if other defences will give him all the time he was conceded by the Austrians. Channon too looks effective, able to take on defenders on the floor though the enigmatic Chivers continues to struggle.

The opening goal was an absolute gift, credited to Channon but in many eyes going directly into goal from a Peters' chip that dropped behind Austrian keeper Koncilia. Though Peters contributed occasional touches to the game he too remains a doubtful quantity for a real battle and though an England side that scores seven goals in one match is a real rarity one wonders how much of this success was contributed to by the inadequacies of the Austrians.

Defensively England were as sound as ever though the fragile Austrians were never able, nor indeed ever seemed willing, to take on Hunter & Co. The latter, standing in for the deposed Bobby Moore, was more adventurous in his sorties upfield than Moore has ever been allowed to be for England but still lacks the unflappable efficiency of the former England captain. In addition, well though he played, Hunter's inclination to produce footed tackles and impetuous fouls was still in evidence and would have been more seriously dealt with by a more competent referee.

Thankfully, Peter Shilton in the England goal looks as formidable now as Banks did four or five years ago. Assuming they qualify England will need Shilton at his best next year but have other, more serious problems, pressing on them. Above all, the Austrians were not a real test and England's all-round superiority will have to be further tested before it can be stamped with general approval.

● *Continued from page 17*

they were still in the First Division at all was due entirely to an OFB decision last season to enlarge the top class from 16 to 17 clubs. But for that, Sturm would have been relegated.

Elsewhere gates have been closer to 2,000 than 20,000, but Sturm were firmly put through the wringer. Hans Krankl who looked so ordinary at Wembley hit his eighth goal in eight games, Starek scored from the spot and the West German Gronen scored twice to beat Sturm 4-0.

Meanwhile VSV Radentheim a newly promoted club have engaged a couple of Yugoslavs. One, Zambata gets goals, though he was late joining the squad for the campaign. He scored in his first game, helping Radentheim to their first win 3-1 at home to Simmering. If not setting Austria alight Radentheim are stirring up interest in their home town Villach through the feats of their other Yugoslav, the former international goalkeeper Muftic. Within a month he had established himself as the finest keeper in Austria.

Muftic has in fact been beaten three times in seven games but Radentheim have collected eight points from six draws and one win. The only club still unbeaten they are doing it all in defence . . . and in goal . . . but it pays, even if it cannot be described as entertainment.

Yet VSV Radentheim are already too far behind the leaders to enter a serious challenge for the title. Sturm are still top despite their comprehensive defeat against Rapid, who in their turn were beaten at home by VOEST Linz. These three clubs, with possibly the new AUstria/WAC complex and the champions Swarowski Wacker Innsbruck are the favourites—even though the last named will sadly miss the sharpshooting of their left winger Kurt Jara now attempting to do it in Spain for Alfredo Di Stefano and Valencia C d.F.

LEAGUE TABLES

MOROCCO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
El Jadida	5	3	2	0	5	1	13
Rasa	5	3	1	1	11	5	12
WAC	5	2	3	0	8	3	12
TAS	5	3	1	1	6	4	12
Fes	5	2	2	1	4	2	11
Marrakech	5	1	3	1	6	6	10
Kenitra	5	0	5	0	3	3	10
FAR	5	1	3	1	3	3	10
Sidi-Kanem	5	2	1	2	6	7	10
Oujda	5	2	1	2	4	7	10
Beni Mellal	5	1	2	2	4	4	9
Mohammedia	5	0	4	1	2	3	9
FUS	5	0	4	1	1	1	9
Sale	5	0	4	1	5	7	9
Settat	5	1	1	3	4	7	8
Khemisset	5	0	1	4	3	9	6

TUNISIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Esperance	3	2	1	0	6	1	8
COT	3	2	1	0	7	2	8
Club Africain	3	2	1	0	5	2	8
AS Marsa	3	1	2	0	3	1	7
CS Sfax	3	2	0	1	4	2	7
EM Mahdia	3	2	0	1	4	3	7
CA Bizerte	3	1	2	0	4	3	7
Etoile du Sahel	3	1	1	1	5	4	6
CS Hammam-Lif	3	1	0	2	1	3	5
JS Kairouan	3	1	0	2	2	3	5
Sfax RS	3	0	1	2	0	2	4
Stade Tunisien	3	0	1	2	2	5	4
SSS	3	0	1	2	5	9	4
CS Cheminots	3	0	1	2	2	8	4

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zurich	7	5	2	0	17	7	12
Neuchatel Xamax	6	4	1	1	13	5	9
St Gallen	6	3	2	1	12	6	8
Grasshoppers	6	3	2	1	13	9	8
Young Boys	6	3	1	2	15	12	7
Basel	6	3	1	2	9	7	7
Servette	6	3	1	2	12	12	7
Winterthur	6	2	2	2	6	5	6
Lausanne	6	2	2	2	13	13	6
Lugano	6	1	2	3	7	11	4
Chiasso	6	1	2	3	5	9	4
Sion	6	1	2	3	5	10	4
Chenois	6	0	2	4	2	14	2
Chaux de Fonds	7	0	2	5	6	15	2

POLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ruch Chorzow	7	5	2	0	21	7	12
Wisla Krakow	7	4	2	1	11	6	10
Stal Mielec	5	3	2	0	7	3	8
Gornik Zabrze	6	3	2	1	8	5	8
Legia Warsaw	7	3	2	2	8	4	8
Lech	7	2	4	1	5	4	8
Slask Wroclaw	7	2	2	3	5	6	6
Odra Opole	7	1	4	2	6	8	6
Polonia Bytom	7	1	4	2	7	10	6
Pogon	7	1	4	2	6	9	6
ROW Rybnik	7	1	4	2	4	7	6
Zaglebie Walbrzych	7	2	2	3	5	9	6
LKS Lodz	6	2	1	3	4	5	5
Szombierki	7	1	3	3	9	11	5
Gwardia	7	1	3	3	7	9	5
Zaglebie Sosnowiec	7	1	1	5	1	11	3

DENMARK

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hvidovre	17	7	6	4	39	28	20
KB Copenhagen	17	8	4	5	33	33	20
Vejle	17	8	2	7	32	26	18
Koge	19	8	2	9	25	21	18
Randers	17	7	4	6	23	23	18
Aalborg	17	6	5	6	25	20	17
Akademisk	19	7	3	9	28	29	17
B 1903 Copenhagen	17	5	6	6	18	19	16
Naestved	17	6	4	7	31	33	16
B 1901 Nykobing	17	7	2	8	36	45	16
Frem	17	5	5	7	31	37	15
Aarhus	17	4	5	8	19	28	13

RUSSIA

	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ararat Erevan	25	15	2	8	45	22	32
Dynamo Kiev	25	14	3	8	41	20	31
Dynamo Moscow	24	10	5	9	35	26	25
Zarja Voroschilovgrad	25	12	1	12	32	19	25
Schachtjor	25	11	3	11	25	23	25
Dnjepropetrovsk	25	8	8	9	31	32	24
Spartak Moscow	24	10	3	11	30	27	23
Dynamo Tbilisi	25	9	5	11	31	27	23
CSKA Moscow	25	9	5	11	28	30	23
Kairat Alma Ata	25	8	7	10	25	33	23
Zenit Leningrad	25	7	3	15	27	23	17
Torpedo Moscow	25	8	0	17	24	29	16
Pachtakor	25	7	2	16	30	37	16
Dynamo Minsk	25	5	3	17	17	32	13
Karpaty Lvov	25	5	3	17	25	47	13
SKA Rostov	25	3	5	17	17	34	11

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Atvidaberg	23	16	4	3	50	24	36
Oster Vaxjo	23	10	7	6	41	23	27
Malmo FF	23	11	5	7	40	29	27
Djurgaarden	22	11	4	7	40	31	26
Landskrona	23	10	5	8	31	30	25
AIK Stockholm	23	10	4	9	35	26	24
IFK Norrkoping	23	7	10	6	42	33	24
GAIS Gothenburg	22	9	4	9	23	31	22
Elfsborg Boras	23	6	9	8	29	30	21
Orebro	23	7	7	9	34	38	21
Hammarby	21	6	7	8	24	31	19
Sirius	22	7	5	10	18	35	19
Saab	23	4	5	14	23	42	13
Orgryte	22	3	6	13	25	52	12

SCOTLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hearts	6	4	2	0	17	7	10
Celtic	5	4	0	1	12	4	8
Dundee United	5	4	0	1	9	5	8
Ayr	6	3	2	1	11	9	8
Aberdeen	5	2	3	0	6	3	7
Motherwell	6	2	3	1	9	5	7
Hibernian	5	3	1	1	10	9	7
Dunfermline	6	2	2	2	9	8	6
Dumbarton	6	3	0	3	8	8	6
St Johnstone	6	2	1	3	7	9	5
Arbroath	6	1	3	2	5	7	5
Rangers	5	2	1	2	3	5	5
Dundee	6	1	2	3	6	5	4
Partick	6	1	2	3	3	6	4
Clyde	6	1	2	3	5	14	4
Morton	5	0	3	2	3	7	3
Falkirk	6	0	3	3	4	13	3
East Fife	6	1	0	5	3	8	2

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds United	10	8	2	0	21	5	18
Burnley	10	6	3	1	19	10	15
Coventry City	11	6	2	3	14	9	14
Derby County	11	5	3	3	15	10	13
Liverpool	10	5	3	2	12	9	13
Everton	10	4	4	2	12	9	12
Leicester	10	3	6	1	11	9	12
Newcastle	10	4	3	3	17	13	11
Arsenal	10	5	1	4	13	12	11
Manchester City	10	4	3	3	13	13	11
Q.P.R.	10	2	6	2	14	14	10
Sheffield Utd	10	4	2	4	12	12	10
Ipswich	10	3	4	3	15	17	10
Southampton	10	3	3	4	13	17	9
Chelsea	10	3	2	5	14	14	8
Stoke	10	1	6	3	10	11	8
Manchester Utd	10	3	2	5	9	12	8
Tottenham	10	3	2	5	11	15	8
Wolverhampton	10	3	2	5	12	17	8
Norwich	10	1	4	5	9	16	6
West Ham	10	0	4	6	10	18	4
Birmingham	10	0	3	7	8	22	3

FINLAND (Final)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HJK Helsinki	22	13	5	3	36	21	33
KPV	22	12	7	3	42	17	31
Reipas	22	13	4	5	39	15	30
Kupa	22	10	6	6	34	22	26
OTP	22	9	8	5	29	30	26
KPT	22	9	7	6	36	23	25
Mikkeli	22	6	7	9	23	24	19
Lahti	22	7	4	11	31	38	18
TPS	22	5	7	10	23	32	17
Ilveskissat	22	5	7	10	25	47	17
Pennistus	22	3	7	12	30	44	13
Tapa	22	2	5	15	20	55	9

Belgian referee Vital Loraux points to the spot and England get a penalty after Adam Musial is ajudged to have fouled Martin Peters.

Another narrow escape for Poland at Wembley with goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski going down for the ball with England's Martin Chivers (9) in close attendance and Mike Channon being policed by Jerzy Gorgon.

PORTUGAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vitoria Setubal	5	4	1	0	14	0	9
Sporting	5	4	0	1	17	3	8
Benfica	5	3	1	1	7	3	7
CUF Barreiro	5	2	3	0	10	6	7
Boavista	5	3	0	2	7	5	6
Farense	5	1	4	0	7	5	6
Porto	5	2	2	1	6	5	6
Belenenses	5	2	1	2	10	7	5
Guimaraes	5	1	3	1	5	4	5
Beira-Mar	5	2	0	3	8	11	4
Olhanense	5	2	0	3	6	16	4
Montijo	5	1	1	3	5	7	3
Barreirense	5	1	1	3	3	6	3
Oriental	5	1	1	3	2	11	3
Leixoes	5	1	0	4	3	11	2
Academica	5	1	0	4	2	12	2

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Athletico Madrid	6	4	0	2	11	5	8
Valencia	6	4	0	2	12	8	8
Malaga	6	2	3	1	8	5	7
Celta Vigo	6	3	1	2	11	8	7
Granada	6	2	3	1	6	4	7
Athletico Bilbao	6	3	1	2	6	5	7
Murcia	6	2	3	1	8	8	7
Oviedo	6	3	1	2	7	9	7
Las Palmas	6	3	0	3	5	5	6
Real Sociedad	6	2	2	2	5	7	6
Zaragoza	6	2	2	2	7	11	6
Real Madrid	5	1	3	1	7	4	5
Espanol	6	2	1	3	7	7	5
Castellon	6	1	3	2	7	9	5
Santander	6	1	3	2	7	10	5
Elche	6	2	1	3	6	9	5
Barcelona	5	1	1	3	5	5	3
Gijon	6	1	0	5	5	11	2

EAST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carl Zeiss Jena	7	6	0	1	14	4	12
Sachsenring	7	5	1	1	15	8	11
Magdeburg	7	5	1	1	14	7	11
Loko Leipzig	7	3	3	1	16	12	9
Karl Marx Stadt	7	3	2	2	13	9	8
Dynamo Dresden	7	2	4	1	15	13	8
Vorwaerts Frankfurt	7	2	3	2	8	7	7
Hansa Rostock	7	3	1	3	11	11	7
Dynamo Berlin	7	3	0	4	14	13	6
Wismut Aue	7	2	1	4	11	14	5
Stahl Riesa	7	1	3	3	8	14	5
Energie Cottbus	7	0	4	3	6	14	4
Chemie Leipzig	7	0	3	4	7	15	3
Rot-Weiss Erfurt	7	0	2	5	3	14	2

HUNGARY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ujpest Dozsa	8	7	0	1	25	14	14
Raba ETO	8	5	2	1	13	9	12
Tatabanya	8	4	3	1	14	9	11
Honved	8	5	0	3	21	9	10
Salgotarjan	8	3	4	1	8	7	10
Ferencvaros	8	4	1	3	11	7	9
Videoton	8	3	3	2	9	10	9
Pecs	8	3	3	2	10	12	9
Szeged	8	3	1	4	13	12	7
MTK	8	3	1	4	11	13	7
Csepel	8	2	2	4	12	15	6
Zalaegerszeg	8	2	2	4	6	14	6
Haladas	8	1	3	4	7	10	5
Vasas	8	1	3	4	7	11	5
Dorog	8	1	2	5	8	14	4
Egyetertes	8	0	4	4	6	15	4

RUMANIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Usi Craiova	9	7	2	0	17	6	16
Constanta	9	6	1	2	16	7	13
Dinamo	9	6	1	2	16	11	13
Steaua	9	5	1	3	15	9	11
Pol. Iasi	9	5	0	4	9	9	10
CSM Resita	9	3	3	3	16	13	9
Uni Cluj	9	3	2	4	9	8	8
Steagul Rosu	9	3	2	4	7	8	8
Arges	9	3	2	4	11	15	8
SC Bacau	9	4	0	5	11	15	8
CFR Cluj	9	3	2	4	14	19	8
AS Armata	9	3	2	4	12	18	8
Sportul Studentesc	9	3	1	5	14	11	7
Petrolul	9	3	1	5	10	13	7
UT Arad	9	3	1	5	8	15	7
Jiul	9	2	2	5	11	13	6
Rapid	9	2	2	5	9	14	6

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
RWD Molenbeek	6	3	3	0	13	4	9
Standard Liege	6	4	1	1	9	5	9
FC Malines	6	3	2	1	8	5	8
Anderlecht	6	3	1	2	12	9	7
FC Bruges	6	2	3	1	12	6	7
Beveren Waas	6	2	3	1	8	5	7
FC Liege	6	2	2	2	11	8	6
CS Bruges	6	2	2	2	9	8	6
Berchem	6	2	2	2	7	10	6
Waregem	6	2	2	2	8	13	6
St Trond	6	1	3	2	6	8	5
Lierse	6	1	3	2	8	12	5
Diest	6	1	2	3	10	12	4
Antwerp	6	1	2	3	3	7	4
Beerschot	6	0	4	2	5	9	4
Beringen	6	1	1	4	4	12	3

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ajax Amsterdam	8	5	3	0	23	7	13
Feyenoord	8	6	1	1	23	11	13
Amsterdam	8	4	3	1	13	10	11
PSV Eindhoven	8	4	2	2	22	9	10
Twente Enschede	8	3	4	1	12	6	10
Utrecht	8	5	0	3	12	15	10
Go Ahead	8	4	1	3	15	9	9
FC Den Haag	8	4	1	3	6	7	9
Sparta Rotterdam	8	2	4	2	8	10	8
Tehtar	8	1	5	2	10	12	7
AZ 67 Alkmaar	8	1	5	2	7	10	7
Haarlem	8	3	1	4	10	16	7
Roda JC	8	1	4	3	8	10	6
De Graafschap	8	1	4	3	11	18	6
MVV Maastricht	8	2	2	4	9	16	6
NEC Nijmegen	8	1	2	5	5	10	4
NAC Breda	8	1	2	5	12	20	4
Groningen	8	1	2	5	9	19	4

● Continued on page 50

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski Spartak	7	7	0	0	15	3	14
CSKA Sofia	7	5	1	1	12	5	11
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	7	5	1	1	12	6	11
Beroe Stara Zagora	7	3	1	3	23	13	7
Jantra Gabrovo	7	3	1	3	8	9	7
Pirin Blagoevgrad	7	3	1	3	6	10	7
Minjor Pernik	7	2	3	2	7	13	7
Botev Vratza	7	3	1	3	11	18	7
Lokomotiv Sofia	7	2	2	3	11	9	6
Slavia Sofia	7	3	0	4	8	7	6
ESK Spartak Varna	7	2	2	3	10	12	6
Trakia Plovdiv	7	2	1	4	10	12	5
Tchernomorec	7	2	1	4	10	14	5
Spartak Pleven	7	2	1	4	9	13	5
Etar Timovo	7	1	2	4	5	8	4
Akademik Sofia	7	0	4	3	3	8	4

YUGOSLAVIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hajduk Split	9	5	3	1	15	8	13
Celik	9	4	5	0	9	3	13
Radnicki Nis	9	5	2	2	12	11	12
Red Star Belgrade	9	4	3	2	18	10	11
Dinamo Zagreb	9	4	3	2	11	9	11
OFK Belgrade	9	3	4	2	11	7	10
Zeljeznicar	9	4	2	3	12	9	10
Proleter	9	3	3	3	11	9	9
Olimpija	9	3	3	3	13	14	9
Velez	9	3	3	3	11	12	9
Vardar	9	4	0	5	14	9	8
Sloboda	9	3	2	4	14	15	8
Partizan	9	3	4	3	7	10	8
Sarajevo	9	2	2	4	8	13	8
Borac	9	3	5	3	11	11	7
Bor	9	1	1	5	12	21	7
Vojvodina	9	1	3	5	7	12	5
NK Zagreb	9	1	2	6	8	21	4

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Borussia Moenchengladbach	10	7	2	1	30	14	16
Eintracht Frankfurt	9	6	3	0	21	10	15
VfL Bochum	10	4	5	1	14	9	13
Bayern Munich	10	4	4	2	26	19	12
Fortuna Dusseldorf	10	4	3	3	18	16	11
Kaiserslautern	10	5	1	4	22	21	11
Hertha Berlin	10	3	5	2	16	15	11
Kickers Offenbach	9	4	2	3	14	11	10
VfB Stuttgart	10	4	2	4	20	14	10
Werder Bremen	10	2	5	3	15	17	9
1FC Cologne	10	3	3	4	16	21	9
Hannover 96	10	3	2	5	22	23	8
Wuppertal	10	1	3	5	14	18	8
Schalke 04	10	3	2	5	18	27	8
Rot-Weiss Essen	10	3	2	5	13	22	8
Fortuna Koln	10	1	5	4	12	19	7
MSV Duisburg	10	2	2	6	10	16	6
Hamburg	10	2	2	6	10	19	6

MORE NEXT MONTH

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Results...dates...tables...res

AFRICA

First preliminary round

Group 1

19.11.72 Morocco 0, Senegal 0
3.12.72 Senegal 1, Morocco 2

Group 2

2. 3.72 Algeria 1, Guinea 0
12. 3.72 Guinea 5, Algeria 1

Second Preliminary Round

Guinea 1, Morocco 1
Morocco 2, Guinea 0

Group 3

8.12.72 AR Egypt 2, Tunisia 1
17.12.72 Tunisia 2, AR Egypt 0

Group 4

15.10.72 Sierra Leone 0, Ivory Coast 1
29.10.72 Ivory Coast 2, Sierra Leone 0

Second Preliminary Round

Tunisia 1, Ivory Coast 1
Ivory Coast 2, Tunisia 1

Group 5

16. 7.72 Kenya 2, Sudan 0
23. 7.72 Sudan 1, Kenya 0

Group 6

Mauritius v. Madagascar
Madagascar v. Mauritius
Madagascar withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

10.12.72 Mauritius 1, Kenya 3
17.12.72 Kenya 2, Mauritius 2

Group 7

25.11.72 Ethiopia 0, Tanzania 0
3.12.72 Tanzania 1, Ethiopia 1
Play-off Ethiopia 3, Tanzania 0

Group 8

30. 4.72 Lesotho 0, Zambia 0
4. 6.72 Zambia 6, Lesotho 1

Second Preliminary Round

1. 4.73 Ethiopia 0, Zambia 0
15. 4.73 Zambia 4, Ethiopia 2

Group 9

5. 8.72 Nigeria 2, Congo Brazza. 1
15. 8.72 Congo Brazza. 1, Nigeria 1

Group 10

18. 6.72 Dahomey 0, Ghana 5
2. 7.72 Ghana 5, Dahomey 1

Second Preliminary Round

Nigeria 2, Ghana 3
Ghana 1, Nigeria 1

Group 11*

6. 6.72 Togo 0, Zaire 0
20. 6.72 Zaire 4, Togo 0

Group 12

Cameroons v. Gabon
Gabon v. Cameroons
Gabon withdrew

Second Preliminary Round

4. 2.73 Cameroon 0, Zaire 1
25. 2.73 Zaire 0, Cameroon 1
27. 2.73 Zaire 2, Cameroon 0

Third Round

20. 5.73 Ivory Coast 1, Morocco 1
3. 6.73 Morocco 4, Ivory Coast 1
12. 8.73 Zambia 2, Kenya 0
19. 8.73 Kenya 2, Zambia 2
5. 8.73 Ghana 1, Zaire 0
19. 8.73 Zaire 4, Ghana 1

ASIA

Sub-Group B1

4. 3.73 Australia 1, New Zealand 1
11. 3.73 Australia 3, Iraq 1
Indonesia 1, New Zealand 1
13. 3.73 Iraq 2, New Zealand 0
Australia 2, Indonesia 1
16. 3.73 Iraq 1, Indonesia 1
Australia 3, New Zealand 3
18. 3.73 Indonesia 1, New Zealand 0
Australia 0, Iraq 0
21. 3.73 Iraq 3, Indonesia 2
24. 3.73 Iraq 4, New Zealand 0
Australia 6, Indonesia 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Australia	6	3	3	0	15	6	9
Iraq	6	3	2	1	11	6	8
Indonesia	6	1	2	3	6	13	4
New Zealand	6	0	3	3	5	12	3

Asia Sub-Group B2

4. 5.73 North Korea 0, Iran 0
4. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 1
6. 5.73 North Korea 1, Syria 1
8. 5.73 Iran 1, Syria 0
8. 5.73 Kuwait 0, North Korea 0
11. 5.73 North Korea 1, Iran 2
11. 5.73 Syria 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 Iran 2, Kuwait 0
13. 5.73 North Korea 3, Syria 0
15. 5.73 Syria 1, Iran 0
15. 5.73 Kuwait 2, North Korea 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	6	4	1	1	7	3	8
Syria	6	3	1	2	6	6	7
North Korea	6	1	3	2	5	5	5
Kuwait	6	1	1	4	4	8	3

18. 8.73 Australia 3, Iran 0
24. 8.73 Iran 2, Australia 0

Asia Sub Group A

Group A

Hong Kong (0) 1, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (2) 4, South Vietnam (0) 0
Japan (0) 0, Hong Kong (0) 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hong Kong	2	2	0	0	2	0	4
Japan	2	1	0	1	4	1	2
South Vietnam	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group B

South Korea (0) 4, Thailand (0) 0
Israel (1) 6, Thailand (0) 0
Malaysia (0) 2, Thailand (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Israel (0) 0
South Korea (0) 0, Malaysia (0) 0
Israel (2) 3, Malaysia (0) 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Israel	3	2	1	0	9	0	5
South Korea	3	1	2	0	4	0	4
Malaysia	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Thailand	3	0	0	3	0	12	0

Semi finals

South Korea (1) 3, Hong Kong (1) 1
Israel (0) 1, Japan (0) 0*

Final

South Korea (0) 1, Israel (0) 0*
* *after extra time*

CONCACAF

First preliminary round

Group 1

20. 8.72 Canada 3, USA 2
24. 8.72 Canada 0, Mexico 1
29. 8.72 USA 2, Canada 2
3.10.72 Mexico 3, USA 1
6.10.72 Mexico 2, Canada 1
10.10.72 USA 1, Mexico 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mexico	4	4	0	0	8	3	8
Canada	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
USA	4	0	1	3	6	10	1

Group 2

3.12.72 Guatemala 1, El Salvador 0
10.12.72 El Salvador 0, Guatemala 1

Group 3

3.12.72 Honduras 2, Costa Rica 1
10.12.72 Costa Rica 3, Honduras 3

Group 4

11. 6.72 Jamaica v. Neth. Antilles
Neth. Antilles v. Jamaica
Jamaica withdrew

Group 5

15. 4.72 Haiti 7, Puerto Rico 0
26. 9.72 Puerto 0, Haiti 5

Group 6

26.11.72 Surinam 1, Trinidad 2
30.11.72 Trinidad 1, Surinam 1
10.12.72 Surinam 3, Antigua 1
3.12.72 Antigua 0, Surinam 6
10.11.72 Trinidad 11, Antigua 1
19.11.72 Antigua 1, Trinidad 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trinidad	4	3	1	0	16	4	7
Surinam	4	2	1	1	11	4	5
Antigua	4	0	0	4	3	22	0

Final Tournament

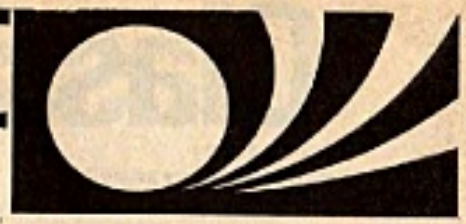
29.11.73 Honduras v. Trinidad
30.11.73 Mexico v. Guatemala
1.12.73 Haiti v. Neth. Antilles
3.12.73 Honduras v. Mexico
5.12.73 Neth. Antilles v. Guatemala
7.12.73 Honduras v. Haiti
8.12.73 Neth. Antilles v. Mexico
10.12.73 Guatemala v. Trinidad
12.12.73 Honduras v. Neth. Antilles
13.12.73 Guatemala v. Haiti
14.12.73 Trinidad v. Mexico
15.12.73 Honduras v. Guatemala
17.12.73 Trinidad v. Neth. Antilles
18.12.73 Mexico v. Haiti

EUROPE

Group 1

14.11.71 Malta 0, Hungary 2
30. 4.72 Austria 4, Malta 0
6. 5.72 Hungary 3, Malta 0
25. 5.72 Sweden 0, Hungary 0
10. 6.72 Austria 2, Sweden 0
15.10.72 Sweden 7, Malta 0
15.10.72 Austria 2, Hungary 2
25.11.72 Malta 0, Austria 2
29. 4.73 Hungary 2, Austria 2
24. 5.73 Sweden 3, Austria 2

ults...dates...tables...results



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13. 6.73 Hungary 3, Sweden 3
11.11.73 Malta v. Sweden

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	6	3	2	1	14	7	8
Hungary	6	2	4	0	12	7	8
Sweden	5	2	2	1	13	7	6
Malta	5	0	0	5	0	18	0

Group 2

8.10.72 Luxembourg 0, Italy 4
21.10.72 Switzerland 0, Italy 0
22.10.72 Luxembourg 2, Turkey 0
10.12.72 Turkey 3, Luxembourg 0
13. 1.73 Italy 0, Turkey 0
25. 2.73 Turkey 0, Italy 1
31. 3.73 Italy 5, Luxembourg 0
8. 4.73 Luxembourg 0, Switzerland 1
9. 5.73 Switzerland 0, Turkey 0
26. 9.73 Switzerland 1, Luxembourg 0
20.10.73 Italy v. Switzerland
18.11.73 Turkey v. Switzerland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	5	3	2	0	10	0	8
Switzerland	4	2	2	0	2	0	6
Turkey	5	1	2	2	3	3	4
Luxembourg	6	1	0	5	2	14	2

Group 3

18. 5.72 Belgium 4, Iceland 0
22. 5.72 Iceland 0, Belgium 4 (In Belgium)
2. 8.72 Norway 4, Iceland 1
4.10.72 Norway 0, Belgium 2
1.11.72 Netherlands 9, Norway 0
19.11.72 Belgium 0, Netherlands 0
2. 8.73 Iceland 0, Norway 4
22. 8.73 Netherlands 5, Iceland 0
29. 8.73 Iceland 1, Netherlands 8 (In Netherlands)
12. 9.73 Norway 1, Netherlands 2
31.10.73 Belgium v. Norway
18.11.73 Netherlands v. Belgium

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	5	4	1	0	24	2	9
Belgium	4	3	1	0	10	0	7
Norway	5	2	0	3	9	14	4
Iceland	6	0	0	6	2	29	0

Group 4

21. 6.72 Finland 1, Albania 0
20. 9.72 Finland 1, Rumania 1
7.10.72 East Germany 5, Finland 0
29.10.72 Rumania 2, Albania 0
8. 4.73 East Germany 2, Albania 0
6. 5.73 Albania 1, Rumania 4
27. 5.73 Rumania 1, East Germany 0
6. 6.73 Finland 1, East Germany 5
26. 9.73 East Germany 2, Rumania 0
10.10.73 Albania 2, Finland 0
14.10.73 Rumania 9, Finland 0
3.11.73 Albania v. East Germany

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rumania	6	4	1	1	17	4	9
East Germany	5	4	0	1	14	2	8
Finland	6	1	1	4	3	12	3
Albania	5	1	0	4	3	9	2

Group 5

15.11.72 Wales 0, England 1
24. 1.73 England 1, Wales 1
28. 3.73 Wales 2, Poland 0
6. 6.73 Poland 2, England 0
26. 9.73 Poland 3, Wales 0
17.10.73 England 1, Poland 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
England	4	1	2	1	3	4	4
Wales	4	1	1	2	2	5	3

Group 6

29. 3.72 Portugal 4, Cyprus 0
10. 5.72 Cyprus 0, Portugal 1
18.10.72 Bulgaria 3, Northern Ireland 0
19.11.72 Cyprus 0, Bulgaria 4
14. 2.73 Cyprus 1, Northern Ireland 0
28. 3.73 Northern Ireland 1, Portugal 1
2. 5.73 Bulgaria 2, Portugal 1
9. 5.73 Northern Ireland 3, Cyprus 0
26. 9.73 Northern Ireland 0, Bulgaria 0
13.10.73 Portugal 2, Bulgaria 2
14.11.73 Portugal v. Northern Ireland
18.11.73 Bulgaria v. Cyprus

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria	5	3	2	0	11	1	8
Portugal	5	2	2	1	9	5	6
N. Ireland	5	1	2	2	4	5	4
Cyprus	5	1	0	4	1	12	2

Group 7

19.10.72 Spain 2, Yugoslavia 2
18.11.72 Yugoslavia 1, Greece 0
17. 1.73 Greece 2, Spain 3
21. 2.73 Spain 3, Greece 1
21.10.73 Yugoslavia v. Spain
19.12.73 Greece v. Yugoslavia

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	2	1	0	8	5	5
Yugoslavia	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Greece	3	0	0	3	3	7	0

Group 8

18.10.72 Denmark 1, Scotland 4
15.11.72 Scotland 2, Denmark 0
2. 5.73 Denmark 1, Czechoslovakia 1
6. 6.73 Czechoslovakia 6, Denmark 0
26. 9.73 Scotland 2, Czechoslovakia 1
17.10.73 Czechoslovakia v. Scotland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Scotland	3	3	0	0	8	2	6
Czechoslovakia	3	1	1	1	8	3	3
Denmark	4	0	1	3	2	13	1

Group 9

13.10.72 France 1, USSR 0
18.10.72 Eire 1, USSR 2
15.11.72 Eire 2, France 1
13. 5.73 USSR 1, Eire 0
19. 5.73 France 1, Eire 1
26. 5.73 USSR 2, France 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
USSR	4	3	0	1	5	2	6
Eire	4	1	1	2	4	5	3
France	4	1	1	2	3	5	3

Play-off with South America Group 3
USSR 0, Chile 0

SOUTH AMERICA

Group 1

21. 6.73 Colombia 1, Ecuador 1
24. 6.73 Colombia 0, Uruguay 0
28. 6.73 Ecuador 1, Columbia 1
1. 7.73 Ecuador 1, Uruguay 2
5. 7.73 Uruguay 0, Colombia 1
8. 7.73 Uruguay 4, Ecuador 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	4	2	1	1	6	2	5
Colombia	4	1	3	0	3	2	5
Ecuador	4	0	2	2	3	8	2

Group 2

2. 9.73 Bolivia 1, Paraguay 2
9. 9.73 Argentina 4, Bolivia 0
16. 9.73 Paraguay 1, Argentina 1
23. 9.73 Bolivia 0, Argentina 1
30. 9.73 Paraguay 4, Bolivia 0
7.10.73 Argentina 3, Paraguay 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	4	3	1	0	9	2	7
Paraguay	4	2	1	1	8	5	5
Bolivia	5	0	0	5	1	11	0

Group 3

29. 4.73 Peru 2, Chile 0
3. 5.73 Chile 2, Peru 0
15. 8.73 Chile 2, Peru 1 (Venezuela withdrew)

Play-off with Europe Group 9
USSR 0, Chile 0

Domarski scores Poland's goal in the World Cup match with England.

Classified results

WORLD CUP
South American preliminary group 3

AUGUST 5

Chile (1) 2 (Valdez, Reinoso)
Peru (1) 1 (Bailetti)

(play-off at Montevideo)

Chile: Olivares, Herrera, Rodriguez, Quintano, Arias, Lara, Valdez, Reinoso, Caszelly, Crisosto, Ahumada (Farias).
Peru: Uribe, Navarro, De Latorre, Champitaz, Carbonell, Mifflin, Munante, Sotil (Oblitas), Bailetti, Ramirez.

Group 3 Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chile	3	2	—	1	4	3	4
Peru	3	1	—	2	3	4	2

(Venezuela withdrew due to internal problems)

INTERNATIONALS

JULY 14

Argentina (3) 5 (Guerini, Ayala 2, Brindisi 2)
Chile (2) 4 (Ahumada 2, Crisosto, Caszelly)

(Dittborn Cup, 1st leg)

Argentina: Carnevali, Wolff, Bargas, Here.dia Roal (Persia), Brindisi, Telch, Alonso (Chazarreta), Ponce, Ayala, Guerini.
Chile: Neff, Galindo (Machuca), Gonzalez, Lara, Arias, Valdez, Paez (Herrera), Caszelly, Crisosto, Ahumada, Munoz.

JULY 18

Chile (2) 3 (Caszelly 2, Crisosto)
Argentina (1) 1 (Brindisi pen.)

(Dittborn Cup, 2nd leg)

Chile: Vallejos, Machuca, Gonzalez, Herrera, Arias, Paez, Valdez, Crisosto, Caszelly (Farfa), Ahumada, Veliz (Munoz).
Argentina: Carnevali, Wolff, Bargas, Heredia, Pernia, Brindisi, Telch, Alonso (Guerini), Houseman (Avallay), Ayala, Chazarreta.
(Argentina retain Dittborn Cup, as holders, as each country won one game)

JULY 24

Chile (1) 3 (Crisosto, Munoz, Solis)
Bolivia 0

(Provoste Cup) 30,000

JULY 27

Argentina (1) 3 (Guerini 2, Brindisi pen.)
Peru (1) 1 (Bailetti)

(Ramon Castilla Cup)

Argentina: Carnevali, Wolff, Bargas, Heredia, (Troncoso), Correa, Brindisi, Telch, Chazarreta, Housemann (Ponce), Ayala, Guerini.
Peru: Uribe, Carbonell, Champitaz, De la Torre, Navarro (Soria), Mifflin, Bailetti, Challe,

AUGUST 1

Canada (1) 1 (Aubert)
Poland (0) 3 (Gadocha 2, Gorgon)

Canada: Chursky: Sam Lenarduzzi, Grant, Bobby Lenarduzzi, Robinson: Douglas, Ellett, Twamley (Horrocks): Johnson (Gant), Parsons, Aubert (Schiraldi).
Poland: Tomaszewski (Szeja): Symanowski, Balzacki, Gorgon, Musial; Cmikiewicz (Drozdowski), Deyna, Kasperczak; Banas (Kmiecik), Szarmach, Gadocha.

AUGUST 5

Canada (0) 0
United States (1) 2 (Grgurev, Liveric)

Canada: Weber: Sam Lenarduzzi, Millar, Bobby Lenarduzzi, Twamley: Douglas, Ellett, Robinson (Batchelor): Johnson, Parsons, Schiraldi.
United States: Ivanow: Georges, Deszofi, Shafer, Kovacs: Hoban, Martinez, Getzinger (Mehl); Child, Grgurev, Liveric (Caparro).

Argentina (2) 4 (Brindisi 2, Ayala 2)
Bolivia (0) 0

Argentina: Carnevali; Wolff, Sa, Bargas, Correa, Brindisi, Telch, Babington, Balbuena, Ayala, Guerini.
Bolivia: Jimenez; Olivera, Perez, Anielo, Iriondo, Saucedo (Rocabado), Vargas, Cabrera Rivero, Angulo, Mezza (Gimenez), Fernandez.

Norway (0) 1 (Hestad)
Holland (1) 2 (Cruyff, Hulshoff)

Norway: Geir Karlsen; Helge Karlsen, Birkelund, Olafsen, Hovdan, Christiansen, Pettersen, Kvia, Sunde (Johansen), Lund, Grondalen.
Holland: Van Beveren; Schneider, Drost, Hulshoff, Krol, Jansen, Van der Kerkhof, Muhren, Van Hanegem (Haan), Brokamp, Cruyff.

Paraguay (1) 1 (Arrua)
Argentina (1) 1 (Ayala)

Paraguay: Benitez; Molinas, Sosa, Ortiz Aquino, Cobo, Osorio (Espinosa), Jara Saguir, Arrua, Escobar, Diarte, Jimenez (Insfran).
Argentina: Carnevali; Wolff, Sa, Bargas, Correa, Brindisi (Babington), Telch, Chazarreta, Balbuena, Ayala, Guerini (Avallay).

Scotland (1) 2 (Holton, Jordan)
Czechoslovakia (1) 1 (Nehoda)

Scotland: Hunter; Jardine, Holton, Connelly, McGrain, Bremner, Hay, Hutchison (Jordan), Morgan, Law, Dalglish.
Czechoslovakia: Viktor; Pivarnik, Samek, Zlocha, Bendl, Bicovsky, Kuna (Dobias), Panenka (Capkovic) Adamec, Stratil, Nehoda.

Poland (2) 3 (Gadocha, Lato, Domarski)
Wales (0) 0

Poland: Tomaszewski; Szymanowski, Bulzacki, Gorgon, Musial, Cmikiewicz, Kasperczak, Deyna, Lato, Domarski, Gadocha.
Wales: Sprake; Rodrigues, England, Roberts, Thomas, Yorath, Hockey, Mahoney (Phillips), James, Davies (W), Evans (Reece).

East Germany (1) 2 (Bransch 2)
Rumania (0) 0

East Germany: Croy; Bransch, Kurbjuweit, Sammer, Fritsche, Lauck, Seguin, Streich, Ducke, Kreische (Sparwasser), Lowe.
Rumania: Raducanu; Antonescu, Satmareanu, Deleanu, Dumitru, Dinu, Taralunga (Sames), Dobrin (Dembrowschi), Dumitrache, Neuweller, Iordanescu.

Back Cover caption

Back row left to right: William Bennett, Gabriel Valenzuela, Orestes Perez, Carlos Loredo, Agustin Perez, Lorenzo Sotomayor. Front: Ramon Nunez, Jorge Masso, Jose Elejalde, Rene Bonora, Carlos Azcuy.

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Bonus Pts	Pts
Lens	10	7	1	2	20	14	4	19
St Etienne	10	6	3	1	16	9	2	17
Nimes	10	6	2	2	20	13	3	17
Lyon	10	5	3	2	20	17	2	15
Nice	10	5	0	5	19	12	4	14
Bordeaux	10	3	4	3	18	16	3	13
Angers	10	4	2	4	18	18	3	13
Sochaux	10	4	2	4	17	12	2	12
Troyes	10	4	2	4	17	13	2	12
Bastia	10	5	1	4	13	11	1	12
Nantes	10	4	2	4	16	14	2	12
Marseille	10	3	3	4	18	17	2	11
Reims	10	3	2	5	17	20	3	11
Nancy	10	2	5	3	14	17	2	11
Paris	10	3	2	5	15	28	3	11
Metz	10	3	3	4	12	14	1	10
Strasbourg	10	2	4	4	13	21	2	10
Monaco	10	1	4	5	18	22	3	9
Rennes	10	3	2	5	11	15	0	8
Sedan	10	2	3	5	9	18	0	7

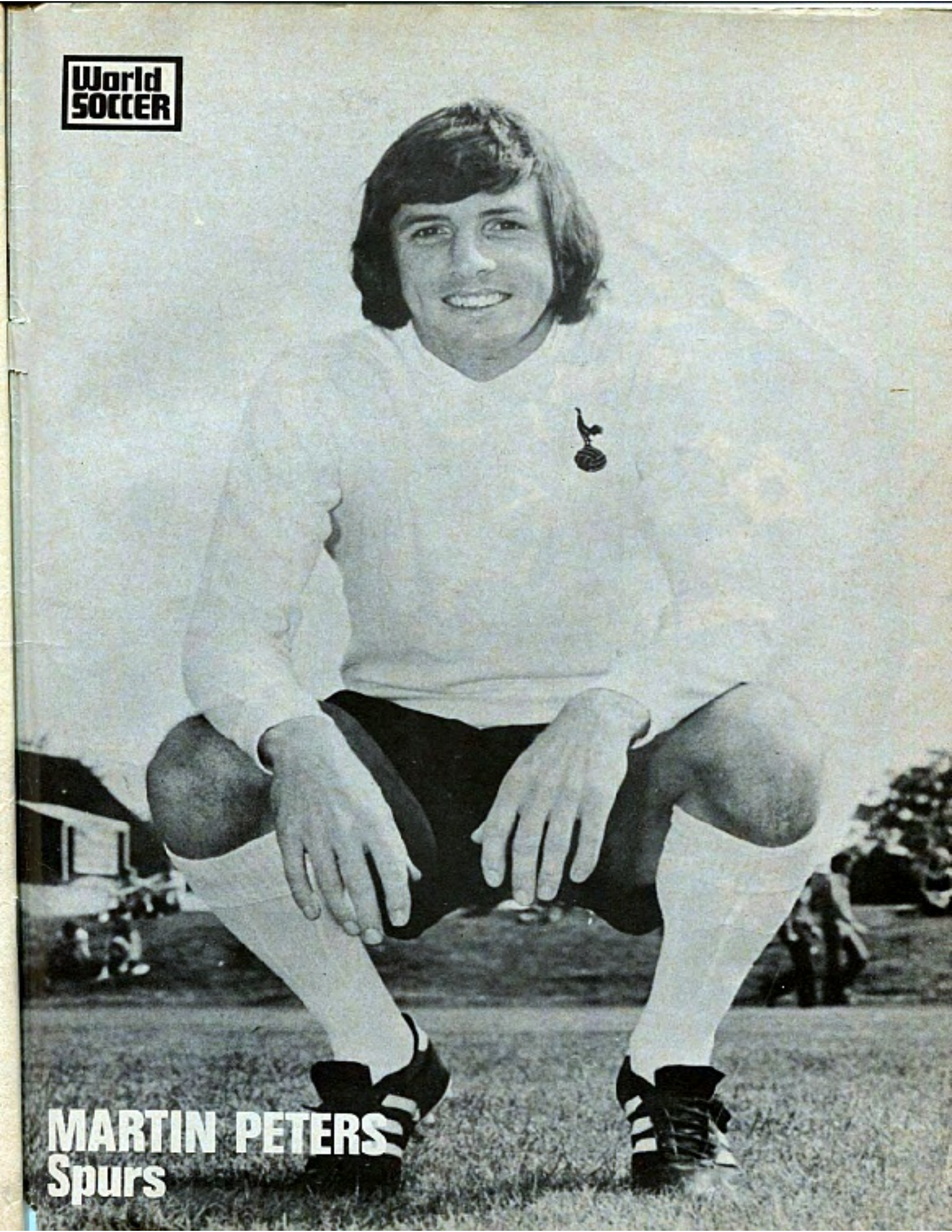
AUSTRIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VOeEST Linz	10	7	2	1	18	7	16
Sturm Graz	10	7	1	2	10	8	15
SW Innsbruck	9	5	3	1	20	8	13
Austria/WAC	8	5	2	1	18	9	12
Rapid Vienna	8	3	4	1	16	10	10
Austria Klagenfurt	9	3	4	2	14	12	10
Radenthein/VSV	9	1	7	1	6	6	9
Vorarlberg	9	3	3	3	9	14	9
Austria Salzburg	10	3	3	4	12	11	9
Linz ASK	10	3	3	4	14	17	9
Wiener Sportklub	10	2	4	4	15	19	8
Simmering	9	2	3	4	15	14	7
Graz AK	9	2	3	4	7	11	7
Eisenstadt	9	3	1	5	8	13	7
DSV Alpine	9	2	2	5	15	17	6
Admira/Wacker	9	2	2	5	13	18	6
Vienna	9	1	1	7	5	21	3

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos Piraeus	3	3	0	0	11	0	6
AEK Athens	3	3	0	0	11	1	6
Panathinaikos	3	2	1	0	6	1	5
Aris Salonika	3	2	1	0	3	1	5
Panionios	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
PAOK Salonika	3	2	0	1	8	5	4
Kavala	3	1	1	1	2	2	3
Panserraikos	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Ethnikos	3	1	1	1	2	4	3
Panachaiki	3	1	0	2	3	3	3
Iraklis	3	0	2	1	3	4	2
Larissa	3	1	0	2	1	2	2
Apollon	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Olympiakos Volos	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
Aigaleo	3	1	0	2	3	11	2
Apollon Salonika	3	0	1	2	1	5	1
Fostir	3	0	1	2	2	9	1
Apoel	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Norman Hunter comes across to tackle Poland No. 11 Robert Gadocha. Both these players were involved in the move which led to the Polish goal.


World Soccer
MARTIN PETERS
Spurs

CUBA 1973